



Window on Jordan

What do people look for in newspapers Politics, horoscopes and pop videos

By Ilham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer
READING A book or a newspaper on a long journey is an enjoyable task that kills time, provides spiritual nutrition and expands people's awareness and knowledge.
However, the interest in reading or even going through a book or a newspaper has been declining. Indeed, this is attributed to the enormous pressures of everyday living.
People can be judged by the kind of books or

newspapers they read or the subject matter that attract their attention.
Most people in Jordan are highly educated, but if you ask them what kind of articles or books they read, they almost look at you in horror and say "I don't have time to read, you must be joking! I don't have time to look at a newspaper even though I get it at my house on a daily basis," a taxi driver said.
"I get up early every morning and leave the house, and I don't come back before 10 in the evening. I leave while my kids are asleep and arrive back while

they've gone to bed," Abu Ali said.
Amusingly, he added that the newspaper is mainly used for eating on. "I sometimes pick up a news item by chance, whilst I am having my dinner."
Today, things have become a lot more complicated. A person must work, work, and work to secure a decent life for his children. Bearing this in mind, Abu Ali has to protect as much fires as possible to be able to pay for the petrol, the taxi owner of



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Peace brings profits to Somali trade center

By Ann M. Simmons
Star Staff Writer
BOSSASSO, Somalia—Mohammed Awli Mohammed watches with satisfaction as four women crouch on the sandy ground outside his shop in the dusty heat of the dawn here, pulling the husk from frankincense with their fingers and teeth. Each worker, her lips ringed with white powder from her labors, will clean and sort at least 35 pounds of the clumps of aromatic gum before her day ends at 11 pm.
The effort pleases Mohammed, 25, a Bossaso entrepreneur, for he is on target to reach his weekly quota to export 220 to 440 pounds of frankincense, a fragrant resin commonly burned in ceremonial practices. This will mean as much as \$2,400 cash in his pocket.
Before the collapse of Somalia's national government seven years ago and the ensuing civil war that has ravaged much of the country since, almost all of Mohammed's frankincense and the profits it generated would have gone to the local authorities of this semiarid, sand-swept port city.
But things have changed. "Life in the city is different," said Mohammed, who now exports his product, which costs about \$6 a pound, to Saudi Arabia and Dubai, one of the United Arab Emirates. "I'm a private businessman now. When the government was here, we couldn't even go to the port."

Mohammed, who also manages a thriving trade shipping shark fins to Hong Kong, is just one of scores of businesspeople who are capitalizing on the peace and stability of Bossaso, the de facto capital of northeastern Somalia. Near the tip of the Horn of Africa, about 700 miles northeast of the shattered Somali capital, Mogadishu, Bossaso has become a refuge from the anarchy sweeping this nation.
While most of Somalia has become an object of international despair and even disgust because its seemingly unceasing ethnic warfare and unchecked violence have left it with no functioning central government and in the haphazard control of numerous armed factions, here in Bossaso there is no comparable inter-clan

Islamists choose hard option Boycott elections, leave opposition in doldrums

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer
ENDING CONTRADICTIONARY speculation on its real attitude towards the next elections, the Muslim Brotherhood took a historic decision to boycott the race. This decision will almost likely create a rift in the 40-year-old relationship with the regime.
This decision was taken early Wednesday morning, after more than a seven-hour meeting by the movement's highest body, the Shura Council.
During the meeting, the pragmatists failed to convince the Shura Council of the need to participate through its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF). But the hardliners' reasons to boycott, seems to be stronger than the logic of political maneuvers.
Twenty members of the 30-persons Shura Council attended the meeting, and eight being abroad.
Ten members stated their opposition to run for the elections and include: Mohammed Abu Fares, Hamman Sa'id, Dawoud Kojak, Ahmed Al Kofhi, Saud Abu Mahfouz, Haitham Abul Ragheb, Kandeel Shaker, Salem Al Falahat, Jamil Abu Baker and Emad Abu Dayah.
Those in favour of running were: Abdel Majeed Thuneibat, (Overseer of the Muslim Brotherhood), Ishaq Al Farhan (IAF general secretary), Abdul Rahim Al Okour, Mohammad Al Haj, Abdullah Al Khabbas, and Theib Anees.
"It was a hard option," Ab-



Islamists give their backs to the next parliament

del Majeed Thuneibat, told The Star. "We look at it as a result of the accumulation of many reasons, which we hope the government will take into consideration."
According to Muslim Brotherhood sources, the Shura Council's decision to boycott came after a strong demand from the majority of members in the movement. The sources added that in a fresh survey conducted early this month, more than 270 members but of about 500 participants, supported the boycott, while about 170 members wanted to participate but with conditions which described as "impossible." These included demanding the government to repeal several legislation including the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty Law. The same survey showed that only a slight minority supported participation in the elections.
However, observers believe that the historic decision of the movement, is a tactical

New Christian party creates much anguish

By Marwan Asmar
Star Staff Writer
POLITICS IS a strange old thing. Cynics say it is there to be manipulated, others point out that politics is the art of the possible and impossible, to reach power, draw up policies and make sure that they are translated into practice.
It is with this in mind that the new Christian Arab Democratic Party (CADP) has been created. It's formation in the light of the November election is understandable. What is not however, is its social make up.
Despite its Christian title, about half of its 100 founding members are Muslims and its membership is likely to increase, party officials are saying.
But such utterings are arousing much suspicion. Why the formation of this party, what will it gain. What is it that they are really after? Is it just togetherness and mutual understanding?
If this is the case, then it is argued that Muslims and Christians in this country already live in harmony. There is no ethnic strife as there is in other countries.
While it can't be said that the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front are angry, they nevertheless, see no real aim in the formation of the new party.
After all, there is the Arab Islamic Democratic Movement "Dua'a", whose central committee includes a fair number of Christians, but it hadn't attracted much popular support despite its specific call for Christians to enter the party. The Dua'a movement however, considers the establishment of a Christian party as "a dangerous step that threatens the society

and its security." In a statement that was released earlier this week, Dua'a warned against the very idea of licensing such a party.
However, the new party's General Secretary Sami Jawdat Swadi is adamant. He says that there is room for another party and he will make sure that it will be officially licensed and if not, he would be prepared to go to the courts.
Much reaction, already from Muslims and Christians, is being registered. These include religious leaders, politicians, party activists and lawyers.
Islamic politicians are already rejecting the party, Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy Mohammad Abu Faris has condemned the party in the strongest terms.
He, like IAF parliamentary spokesman, Dr. Hanzah Mansour, wonders in amazement how a Christian party could include Muslim members. He says that first of all the Christian religion has different views and ideas. He argues that "any Muslim who becomes a member of this Christian party is guilty of heresy."
However, the tone of Mansour is much more mellow. He doubts whether Muslims are joining this party. He says he does not believe that a Muslim would be prepared to "forgo his Islamic identity."

In a pragmatic approach, something that characterized the Lower House deputy in recent years, he says that if the goals of this party coincides with the Arab Islamic identity of Jordan, "then there would be no problem but the IAF would have something else to say, if the new party is found to develop an isolationist, sectarian perspective."
But the CADP is now involved in a full frontal attack. The party's Deputy General Secretary, Tayseer Boshah, a Muslim, who heads the "organizing unit" is equally blunt. In a reply published in AD Dua-tour daily, Boshah says "we are not a missionary party, nor are we linked to any church," wondering "why the Muslim Brotherhood never protested against the licensing of the Communist Party despite the fact that it does not believe in our religion or even in God."
Some Islamists are already stamping Boshah as a heretic by surrendering his Islamic identity, and joining the Christian party. Boshah however, looks at it differently. He says the concept of the party is political and not missionary as some like to understand it.
Despite its Christian name, the party does not appear to have an ideological view, but a political one. It, for instance, believes in the creation of a united kingdom between Jordan and Palestine. In this respect too, the party believes in the peace process and in reaching a political settlement based on the return of territories that were taken by Israel after the 1967 war.
But this is exactly the problem. It is argued that since the party is not religious, it should not have the word "Christian" in its title.
Roman Catholic Bishop Salim Al Sayigh says that what worries him is that "the party appears to be using a religious title for its own political ends." He adds that "this is something that is to be categorically rejected." The patriarch says that the party must change its name.
In a press conference held on Wednesday, Church leaders and prominent Jordanian Christian personalities condemned the idea of forming the CADP and called on the government not to give it a license.
Lawyers and intellectuals, from both Muslim and Christian backgrounds, are also joining the fray. They are saying that they would be prepared to go to the courts, if party officials go ahead with the name.
They say that the word Christian in the party is not acceptable because it implies that all Christians in the country are members of the party or support it.
Christian leaders are saying that this is something that goes against the national interests and could create divisions in society. The Christian patriarch is calling on all Christians and Muslims to boycott the new party.
The debate around the party will likely go on for some time. What is particularly intriguing is the idea of having Muslims in a Christian Party. And in this respect too, the ideological pedestal will surely create much controversy among Muslim and Christian theologians. ■

Rover gets boulder, rolls to rock

By K.C. Cole
PASADENA, California—After triumphantly wobbling down its ramp away from the mother ship Pathfinder, the six-wheeled geologist named Sojourner headed for its first scientific target last Sunday: a bicolored, nubby rock named "Barnacle Bill."
A brief, jerky film of the rover's descent down its runway evoked whooping and weeping and a sea of raised fists from almost a 100 Pathfinder team members at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory just before the rover's midnight Saturday. The rover's tire tracks left a clear imprint on the floury, pink Martian soil.
Screams of "Cook! Cook! Cookie!" filled the packed auditorium as mission manager Robert Cook took the podium.
By Sunday morning, the Imager for Mars Pathfinder

camera had already taken a panoramic image of its surroundings, allowing researchers to zero in on interesting targets for study. The IMP camera was scheduled to work through the night taking a 3-D color vista called the "Monster Pan" that will allow the scientists to wander through the rocky Martian terrain remotely with 3-D goggles.
Looking around their Pathfinder landing site, scientists saw rocks that were rounded and appeared to have been transported by water, and others that were angular, probably ejected by meteor impacts. Most exciting, they found layered bands in the distant hillsides, indicating that the site, the Arres Vallis, had been flooded catastrophically several times.
Scientists speculated that layers were either terraces cut by erosion or sedimentary deposits. Both geological pro-



cesses clearly signal the presence of water. Project scientist Matthew Golombek said that Mars may still harbor oceans of water frozen beneath its surface or captured on its northern polar cap.
Researchers said they would try to find out the composition of the individual layers and then try to trace the origins of the layers back to some of the boulders in the foreground.
With the arrival of another Mars spacecraft in September, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Mars Global Surveyor, researchers will get a much better idea of the overall geology of the planet. "It's going to take some time to piece it all together," said Ron Greeley, a geologist from the University of Arizona.
Meanwhile, geologists started doing what any proud new parents would do: naming

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What do people look for in newspapers Politics, horoscopes and pop videos

Continued from page 1

the car and leaves a few dinars for his family. Of course he doesn't have time to read the newspaper or even bother to follow up on political or economic events.

To be fair, Jordanians do read, but the kind of subjects they look for is a different

story. The interest of the middle-aged is focused on political developments. "I do buy a newspaper. We are a part of the political system, we should have a role. It is true that we are not decision makers or are not even able to have our voice heard, but we must follow up what is going on," a teacher said.

Everyday, he looks at the newspaper in the morning, scanning the headlines for the most important political news. Then after a long day he looks at it again, reading it carefully while he drinks his favourite coffee. After political news, he reads sports and then goes for the last page searching for the lighter side of life.

A newly wed in her mid-twenties, Alaf Hassan said "I don't have time to read the paper, although it was a habit in the past. I am a lab technician, and by the end of the day I feel exhausted." However "I have to look at the horoscopes. You may laugh but I

need to look at the stars. I sometimes quarrel with my sister over who gets the paper first."

And she is not the only one. The lad today among teenagers is either to go straight to the sports pages or the horoscopes. They want to see their luck for the day. Most are not on good terms with politics and economics finding such vital issues as unnecessary or beyond their circle.

If true, then, indeed, this is disturbing. We are a "youthful society." More than 50 percent of the population is under 15 years of age. They happen to be the most enlightened energetic and productive sector.

Reading is regarded by most of youth as "dull" or "boring." Today youngsters who engage in reading are regarded as "square." Teenagers like fun things that involve listening to the latest pop videos, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Ragheb Alama and the list goes on.

They do become interested in news only when it suits them, if there is a sensational story or crime, the Tawjhi exam results or



to see if there are summer tour programs. But teenagers do come down to earth, a little bit, as they grow older and shoulder greater responsibilities.

Those who are graduates will naturally buy the newspaper to look for job opportunities. "Before I got this job, I used to buy two newspapers every day to look for jobs. But now I don't have time to read one page, and I'm not interested in reading the paper. I prefer to go out with my friends and not waste my time reading," said an

engineer who was jobless for more than two years after graduation.

He is now choosy about the kind of stories he reads, and these are inevitably related to his career.

Whether it is to look for political or economic news, read the sports pages, stars or the ads, reading a newspaper has become an awesome task for Jordanians. We are an educated society, yes, but are we a reading nation?

Boycott elections, leave opposition in doldrums

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and the Press and Publications Law, "do not subscribe to true democracy."

Kamhawi added that "if all

political parties participate and the elections are conducted under a disadvantageous law with a government that is partial, then the opposition

would be condoning, playing the game and legitimizing the outcome of the elections which is quite wrong."

The government's response to the Shura Council's decision was cool. Minister of Interior, Nasseer Rashid, told AD Dastour daily that "We did not force them to boycott... they are free," adding that "we respect their decision and will hold elections despite the boycott."

Mr Thuneibat told The Star that there are several government regulations and legislations which the movement opposes, starting with the one-man-one vote, to the new press law.

Thuneibat earlier called for international observers to supervise the elections. He reiterated his stand "we are still worried that the coming elections will not be clean and free."

"The government will not be able to take a neutral stand in the coming elections," he added. During the 1993 parliamentary elections the Islamic movement accused the government Prime Minister Abdel Salam Al Majali of rigging the election.

Taking such a bold decision to boycott the elections, "indicates to everybody that the Muslim Brotherhood has little confidence in the law that governs these elections or of the government that is going to supervise the elections," Dr Kamhawi said.

The newly established right of center National Constitutional Party (NCP), which is a merger of nine centrist and



Thuneibat

rightists parties, was one of the reasons behind the Islamic boycott. The current prime minister is the architect of the NCP. The party is believed to be pro-government.

Mr Thuneibat accused the government of adopting the NCP by giving it a wide coverage whether in the media or by giving their officials posts in ministries.

"The government is adopting the constitutional party as if it is its party, and deals with the opposition parties as if they are illegal parties."

Supporters and opponents of the movement's decision to boycott the elections appear solid.

Islamic Lower House deputy Thibet Anees who supports participation believes that "the movement feels that boycotting the elections is important because it serves to delegitimize the position of the current policies and practices of the government." He added

that "in the current parliament the government has a solid majority. So we had no influence on the policy making."

However, Mr Anees, a moderate Islamist, played down possibilities of rifts within the movement. He said "the movement will remain united and will not be affected by one or two leaving its ranks."

However, rumors that Al Farhan threatened to quit the movement if the Shura Council votes to boycott have been quickly quashed. He assured "I am with the majority, and will adhere to the decision to boycott the coming elections."

"I think that the majority in the IAF is in favor of running for the elections and that the position of the movement is more puritan and doctrinaire than that of the party," said Dr Kamhawi. But he believes that there would be two possible scenarios. "We might witness either an uneasy acceptance of this decision or that some current IAF members of parliament might simply disobey or totally quit the movement."

"I hope nothing like that would happen because unity in the Islamic movement is important at this stage for the continued viability of the opposition," said Dr Kamhawi.

The rest of the opposition parties, especially members of the 11-party opposition alliance will hold meetings this week to discuss their stand towards the coming elections in the light of the Islamic boycott.

The secretary generals of these parties are now in Syria on a solidarity visit, but are expected to join the Islamic movement in its boycott.

Peace brings profits to Somalian trade center

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warfare under way.

Instead, this prospering haven is run by the Somali Salvation Democratic Front, a local political organization whose leaders say they are willing to reconcile with rival clans, including that of the late notorious Somali warlord, Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid.

There has been little ethnic-based fighting in Bossaso; almost everyone here belongs to the Darood clan. Most disputes are settled the traditional way, by elders. Bossaso's first prison is only now going up on the outskirts of town.

"People here are coming to grips with reality and facing up to their problems more than any region in the country," said John Blerke, Somalia representative for the US Agency for International Development.

If the rest of Somalia followed suit, observers say, this troubled nation could eventually return to some semblance of normalcy.

But realistically, the chaos and societal disintegration that characterize much of Somalia indicate that peace, order and prosperity are unlikely to return any time soon.

Fighting, for example, continues to tear apart the southern port city of Kismayu.

Mogadishu has been relatively calm after last month's fragile cease-fire agreement between the main warlords there. Still, the airport in the capital remains closed, its port has stopped functioning and the city's water and sewage system is defunct.

The United Nations is conducting emergency operations only and no longer has expatriate staff permanently based in the capital, where one of the main factional leaders is California-educated Hussein Mohammed Aidid, son of Mohammed Farah Aidid.

But the dismal conditions elsewhere, in turn, made Bossaso's relative economic progress all that much more significant to experts and observers in Bossaso.

"Commercially, it's booming," Dominik Langenbacher of the UN Development Program said of the city. "A few traditional trading families are making the fortune of their lives." They are taking advantage of Bossaso being one of the country's only two working ports.

Bossaso—whose population has swollen from 6,000 to 150,000 in the last seven years—could hardly be classified as

a thriving, cosmopolitan center in a Western sense. Most residents lack the basics. Potable water, electricity and indoor plumbing are still luxuries.

What many here do have, though, is marketable merchandise—and a relatively safe place to peddle it. Besides frankincense, which local officials say brings in about \$150 million a year, there is a healthy trade in lobster, the leafy stimulant khat and shark fins, which fetch up to \$30 a pound. Livestock—camels, sheep and goats—make up 85 percent of Bossaso's exports, with 200,000 or so head going through the port each month.

Protected by 140 armed security guards supported by 110 customs officials and other staff, the port's commercial activity, UN officials say, amounts to about \$1 million a month, though business has slowed recently as a result of an increased trade at the Somali port of Berbera, west of here.

Meanwhile, in the town's mushrooming center has sprouted a disorganized huddle of shops and kiosks made from old burlap sacks, cardboard and flattened oil barrels. These structures, which also double as merchants' homes, constitute a bazaar of sorts, offering everything from tea to tailoring.

Merchants have plastered their buildings with colorful pictures so their illiterate customers know what goods or services are available.

The quarrelsome-sounding Somali language rings through the air here as pedestrians—few people, even in this prospering place, have cars—jostle with scraggly goats on the gravel streets.

In the shade of a row of shacks, dozens of money-changers straddle plastic sugar sacks stuffed with bundles of up to 10 million Somali shillings: 1,000 Somali shillings are equal to about 8 cents.

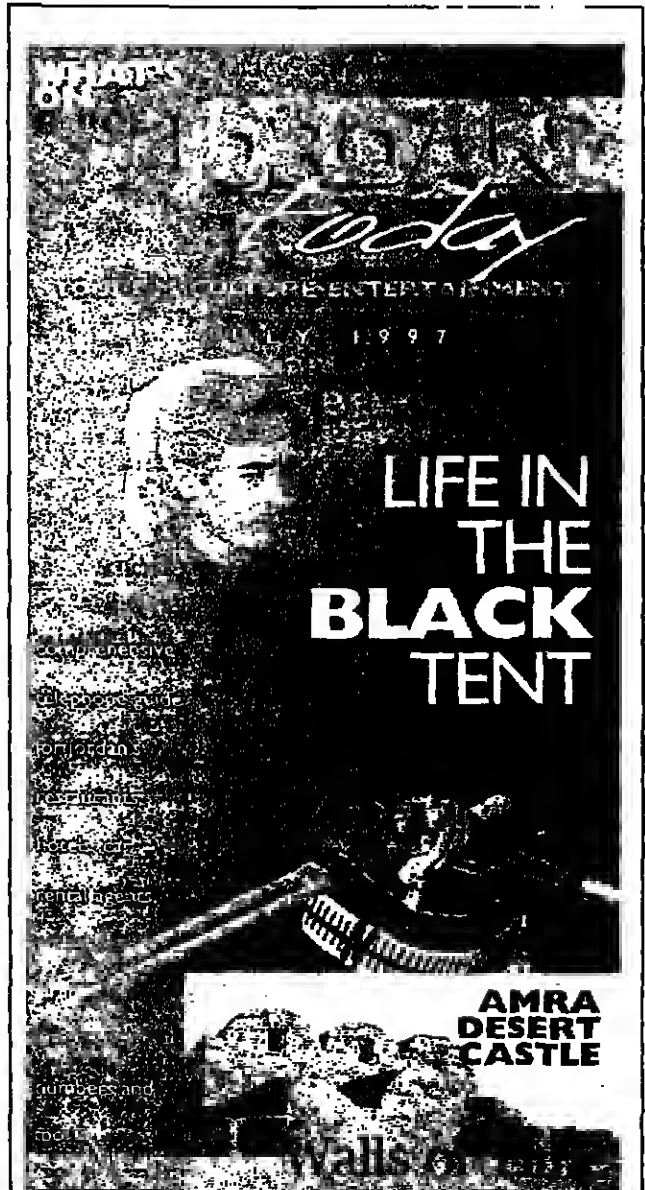
These days, Abdulahi Ahmed Noor, 26, a money dealer for three years, figures he handles the equivalent of up to \$2,000 a day. The figure rises tenfold when the ocean traffic is good. He gloats that there is no need for heavy armed security to guard his cash, because there is an unspoken code of trust among clan members here.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Rawat Al Sharq open new restaurant chain



MATA'EM RAW'AT Al Sharq is a new chain of restaurants that Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Mr Agel Biltagi, recently opened. This chain of restaurants is designed and decorated in Eastern style. A number of prestigious figures and interested people attended the opening, and were shown around. Mata'em Raw'at Al Sharq took four years of continuous hard work to complete. It offers a large variety of mouth-watering Eastern dishes, which are yet another testimony to the wonders of our beloved Oriental homeland.



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10 JULY 1997

J O R D A N

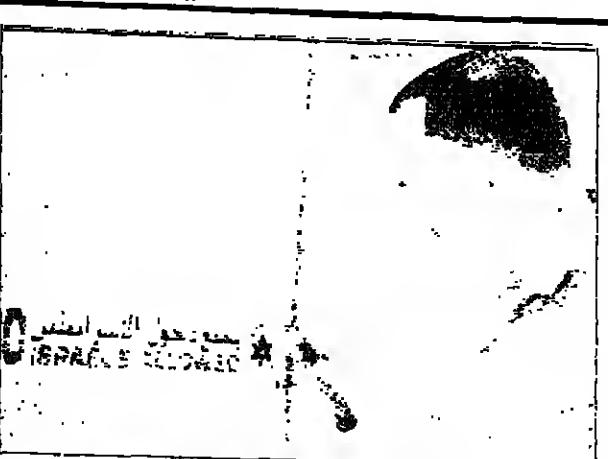
THE STAR 3

JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



Anti Israeli signs cause a stir

Is a stand being taken or is it just a few flutterings here and there? Two Amman shopkeepers last week decided to make their views known. One in Al Abdali put a sticker on his shop window that said "No Israeli's allowed." Majed Hatter told *AD Dastour* that Israeli tourists would stand beside his shop windows and take photographs. The other shop, owned by Waddah Barghouthi, was in Amman's Fourth Circle. A sign said "No dogs, no Jews" allowed. "Pernicious, it must be said, but the authorities made a move to arrest the owners after Israel lodged a formal complaint to the Embassy of Jordan in Tel Aviv. Even during his arrest, Hatter was adamant. He said that he does not want to deal with Israelis and that nobody can force him to. The government is furious but is trying to play down the affair. The two men, which have been arrested, were later released. Minister of Information Affairs Samir Mutaweh said that the Kingdom would not allow its citizens to post anti-Israeli signs in their shops. However, he conceded that such action may have come as a result of the deadlocked peace process.

Earthquake myths

Earthquakes! They are going to happen in Jordan and the region, they are about to happen, they could be destructive. This is what we have been hearing at a constant rate during the last few years. Of course, earthquakes did take place like the one in Aqaba but nothing on the scale that we have been led to believe. Professor Najeeb Abu Karaki, speaking in the Institute of Diplomacy, said no one can predict an earthquake. He added that the possibility of an earthquake in Jordan is no more than a media hype spurned by commercial interests. Abu Karaki, who is an earthquake expert at the University of Jordan, spoke frankly. He said the earthquake rumors are basically made to either increase the premiums on insurance or to decrease the price of land. He also strongly rejected the claim that the last earthquake in Aqaba was the result of Israeli nuclear testing in the Red Sea.

Hot politics or female politics

Oh no, its politics again, you might say. But there is a lot happening. On one side of the scale we have another woman standing for the next parliamentary election. Surprise, surprise, she's non other than Tojan Faisal's sister. Will Laila Faisal have the same fire brand qualities as her sister, everybody is asking. She might. Laila has been a very close confidante of our outspoken Lower House deputy ever since she entered into politics. However, Laila could be more mellow. She will be fighting for Amman's Fifth District. But the political arena seems a lot more exciting than it was a couple of weeks ago. It seems fairly certain that former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri will join forces with former Prime Minister Ahmed Obeidat and form a new political party. What is even more interesting is that IAF Secretary General Dr Isahq Al Farhan is threatening to move to the new party, if his own decides not to participate in the coming elections. Also Suleiman Arar of the Al Mustaqbal could throw in the towel and join the Masri/Obeidat axis. But these are possibilities and anything could happen in the wonderful world of politics!

Not to be deported

The spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mr Mohammad Al Sayyed is to be allowed to stay in Jordan after all. This followed rumors that he was to be deported back to Syria. In a report published in *Al Quds*, Islamic Action Front spokesman Hamza Mansour said that the government has allowed Al Sayyed to stay in Jordan. Mr Mansour said that this decision was taken partly because of Muslim Brotherhood pressure and partly because of humanitarian reasons.

Group wedding is the talk of town

The biggest ever group wedding will take place in Jordan on 17 July. Fifteen couples from Amman, Zerga and Baqura will join hands in a ceremony at the Al Ithad Schools in Tabarbour. The group wedding which is organized by the Al Afaf Charity, is the third of its kind to be performed in the Kingdom.

Riots in Jabal Al Tajj

Trouble at Jabal Al Tajj was only contained when the police moved in and imposed a curfew. The trouble which developed between Caracassians and Jordanians of Palestinian origins was sparked off when a youth was knifed by a Caracessian youth. The police moved in after thousands of young people from both communities geared up in confrontation. The police became embroiled, some police officers were injured and it was reported that one police car was hit by stones. After the police gained control of the area, it arrested at least 50 people. This is not the first time that individual fights develop into collective ones in Jabal Al Tajj.

Complaining about visas

A Jordanian sent a letter to the Al Arab Al Youm newspaper complaining of ill-treatment by the Israeli Embassy in Amman of people who want visas to enter Israel. The Jordanian said he had been waiting since 29 May. He added that his passport has been held by the embassy since that time and wondered whether the Jordanian Embassy in Tel Aviv behaved in the same way. There are long queues outside the Israeli Embassy in Amman and these seem to be growing by the day. One Rabbi, and these seem to be because of the slowness of reason for this could be because of the slowness of processing the applications forms at the embassy. On another level, a new Israeli consulate is to be established in Irbid. The idea behind such a move is to lessen the pressure on the Israeli Embassy in Amman. Could this mean the end of the long queues?

Direct flights between Jordan and Kuwait start

Kuwait Airways has begun the first of its two flights a week to the Queen Alia International Airport. Today, Thursday, 10 July, Royal Jordanian will start its first flight to Kuwait. It will have two flights a week. This is the first direct air connection between the two countries since 1990.

Prince Hassan delivers major speech in Hungary

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan paid a two-day working trip to Hungary, Monday, Tuesday, as part of a worldwide tour that took the Prince to Turkey, the United States, the UK, Switzerland and Hungary.

Prince Hassan met Hungarian President Arpad Gombaszegi and other top officials, where he explained Jordan's position on the peace process, Jerusalem, and Israeli settlements. He said Jordan has a vision of a new region where countries and peoples can live together in peace. The strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries, was also the subject of discussion.

Prince Hassan, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr Faysal Al Tarawneh and Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Hani Al Mulki, also addressed a large gathering of eminent scholars in Budapest. He said trans-regional, collaborative culture that was the defining feature of the Mediterranean civilization in the eighth to the 16th century, is [now] on the rebound after centuries of abeyance.

Prince Hassan was speaking to the International Congress of Asian and North African Studies, that was held in the capital.

"None of us can change history," he told the meeting that was attended by 1,500 experts from 70 countries that included Asia, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. "But we can and must, use the lessons of the past to reinvigorate the present for the betterment of all." Prince Hassan returned to Jordan, Tuesday night.



HRH Prince Hassan kisses a Koran that is translated into the Hungarian language.

PM criticizes Israel's stance on peace

PRIME MINISTER Abdul Salam Majali criticized Israel's hardline stance regarding its commitments to a comprehensive peace.

Following talks with President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, Sunday, Dr Majali remarked on the stubbornness of the Israeli leadership.

He said that "without the return of occupied Arab lands and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital" there can be no peace.

As concerns Jordan's participation in MENA's Doha summit, Dr Majali said that Jordan's decision on the meeting depends on the circumstances and the progress of the peace process. He also stressed that Jordan's decision depended on that of the Arab Nation, and that even the Jordan treaty with Israel was aimed "to serve Arab interests."

Dr Majali also said that Jordan appreciated Egypt's role towards achieving peace. He also expressed Jordan's support for Egypt's call for the creation of an Arab common market. "We fully back Egypt's call for a common market and we have no reservation about this issue whatsoever," said Dr Majali.

The Prime Minister saw this as a basic step to complete Arab economic unity. The two sides stated that a joint committee has been formed to organize meetings to link their financial markets and encourage joint investment projects.



Prime Minister Majali with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, Sunday.

This Saturday defence strikes back Prosecutor asks court to condemn Dakamseh

MILITARY PROSECUTORS last Saturday asked a five-member military tribunal to convict Cpl. Ahmad Al Dakamseh of "premeditated murder in the killing of seven Israeli schoolgirls," a crime that carries a mandatory death sentence.

"How would you feel if the victims were your daughters?" Lt. Col. Muhammad Hijazi, asked the five-judge military tribunal in a speech summing up his case.

Prosecutor Hijazi pleaded that the court "find him [Dakamseh] guilty of all charges and to punish him according to the law."

The defendant is on trial for allegedly gunning down the Israeli girls during a 13 March field trip in the non-hom Jordan Valley.

Five other girls and a teacher were also wounded. Dakamseh is charged with premeditated murder, attempted murder, mutiny and illegally firing from his weapon.

If found guilty of premeditated murder, Dakamseh, 26, could receive the death penalty from a court that heard Israeli witnesses for the first time in Jordan's history.

Hijazi said evidence presented during the five-week trial also implicated Dakamseh of "raising arms" against fellow soldiers who tried to overpower him as he opened fire from his guard post.

Dakamseh, who pleaded innocent, says he fired because the girls mocked and laughed at him as he prayed.

Hijazi said that Dakamseh asked for a rifle and extra ammunition on the day of the shooting, at the border territory of Baqura, which Jordan redeemed after signing the peace treaty. Baqura is now leased to Israel for a 25-year period.

He said Dakamseh hinted at his plans to one of his army comrades on the morning of the killing and smiled at another as he loaded his rifle just seconds before opening fire.

Testimonies of psychologists from the Defense claimed that the defendant is mentally unstable, and he is not responsible for his actions in a bid to convince the court that the act was not premeditated but occurred during a fit of rage.

In his two-hour speech, Hijazi said Dakamseh "has deliberately killed the innocent Israeli girls."

The court has heard that Dakamseh suffered a personality disorder. But while prosecution psychiatrists say the disorder did not cause mental instability, defense medical experts said such a condition could make patients unconscious of their acts. Dakamseh's family says he had fits of rage and tried to commit suicide years ago.

The case was adjourned until this coming Saturday when the defense lawyer, Hussein Mjalli, will wrap up its case.



Dakamseh

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

Reflecting the Change

Middle East Beat

by Khairi Jarrar

Relations with Kuwait

ONE HAS to be careful when writing about the question of a debate between the two countries lest they be annoyed at the speaker, that we just might have a point of view. The same impression is also valid concerning friendly states.

This reasoning leads one to assume that Jordan is the only country willing to be accused and insults that occasionally come its way. Case in mind, is the rather sophisticated Kuwaiti Television program which invites participants, via satellite, to discuss issues.

The subject was the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the hosts linked Jordanian guests to the program. From the outset, it should be stressed that this in no way should be thought of as influencing the exchange of flights between Amman and Kuwait.

The program reached some conclusions; primarily that Jordan did not use suitable terms concerning the Kuwait invasion, eg the usage of the term "invasion". On August 1990. Also, that Jordan should apologize to Kuwait for the position taken by the government and people during the invasion, and that frank and open discussions should precede any reconciliation.

There is nothing new in this respect, for those demands have been going on since the liberation of Kuwait. This being, despite His Majesty King Hussein's explaining Jordan's position clearly. The same message was reiterated regionally as well as internationally by Crown Prince Hassan. Yet we still remain at square one with our Kuwaiti brothers, despite the great improvement in relations with our Gulf brothers.

It must be understood, that when Jordan overtook the usage of the term "invasion" in reference to the crisis after 3 August, it was an elementary move in diplomacy. A move in which one country (Jordan) was mediating so as to effect an Iraqi withdrawal, without any aggravation. Jordan's mediating role was not effective, because no one on the scene wanted it to be.

Thus, Jordan's efforts were crippled, and we ended up being accused of not using the proper terminology, which we would have been thanked for otherwise. As for apologizing, it was stated on this program that an apology is important for the Kuwaiti people. It was also stated that there is a precedence for that—the example given being the apology to Syria.

It must be said though, that Jordan is grand enough to apologize, when an apology is necessary which was the case with Syria. Jordan did indeed apologize when various groupings working against the Syrian interests using Jordanian cover. But Kuwaitis want an apology for our principled position. A position that sought Arab solutions to Arab disaster. A position that would have saved our Kuwaiti brothers from the agony of occupation, and saved Iraq from what followed. Are we in Jordan wrong, to have wanted to save our Arab brothers from mutual annihilation? And were the Jordanian people wrong, when they rejected an international solution to an Arab problem, which everyone knew would destroy Iraq and bankrupt Kuwait?

As for the issue of frank discussions before any reconciliation, Jordan had initiated many suggestions in this respect. The choice is that of our Kuwaiti brothers regarding discussion levels. Whether at a leadership level, government, or parliamentary, or as the Crown Prince Hassan suggested, even at the Arab Thought Forum level. But it still seems, our Kuwaiti brothers prefer the wavelengths as appropriate media for holding discussions. Jordan has always anticipated such discussions, for there is no alternative to negotiating reconciliation.

In modern history, Germany invaded France three times within 75 years. Yet they are now the nucleus of the European Union. Clearly, we must follow such an example, but first we must get out of our primordial mode of thought that would require over four million Jordanians to pay apologies in front of the Kuwaiti embassy. ■

Israel's Barak sees no similarities with Bibi

By Lally Weymouth

EHUD BARAK, 55, the charismatic new leader of Israel's Labor Party, does not go unarmored into a war of words. Earlier, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's justice minister, Tzachi Hanegbi, claimed in the Israeli parliament that Barak, a former chief of staff, had once fled the site of an army training accident, leaving wounded men behind. Barak struck back fiercely, saying he had known the prime minister's brother Yonathan, a member of a crack commando unit who was killed during a raid to rescue a civilian airliner in Entebbe in 1976, and adding: "I am telling you, he would be ashamed of you today. I am also ashamed along with the entire Israeli public."

The Labor Party's new leader was himself the leader of an elite commando unit, and later served as chief of military intelligence, chief of staff of the Israeli defense forces and as foreign minister. As for his politics, some argue that today there isn't much difference in outlook between opposition leader Barak and Prime Minister Netanyahu. Sitting in his office recently, Barak disagreed, insisting, "I don't see any similarity." He distanced himself from Netanyahu even to the extent of saying he had warned the prime minister to "be careful of the rule of law." Barak noted that Netanyahu has attacked the media, the army and the establishment. Indeed, the Labor leader charged that Netanyahu has "blinded his eyes to a major attack on the supreme court by the ultra orthodox." He added, "It's quite a disturbing administration."

Barak, who sees himself as the successor to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ("He was my commander, my mentor, my friend"), charges that Netanyahu has lost the trust that Rabin and Prime Minister Shimon Peres engendered in both President Mubarak of Egypt and His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan. I asked about Har Homa, the settlement that Netanyahu has been building in East Jerusalem, which has provoked an outcry in the Western and Arab worlds. It is, according to Barak, a prime example of a Netanyahu policy failure. Although the prime minister has declared that his goal is to reduce Arab expectations and to make Israel's position in Jerusalem stronger, Barak says that the result has been that "Israel has been weakened in Jerusalem in the last year and (that) the Palestinians are more involved in the daily life of Jerusalem—there's more activity in Orient House. Only the rhetoric has been strengthened."

What would he have done about Har

Homa had he been in office? Barak claims that he would not have begun the project at this particular time. He admits that Har Homa was approved by the Rabin and Peres governments, but points out that unlike Netanyahu, neither Labor prime minister actually began the controversial project. Barak admits he might one day build Har Homa, but says at that moment he would also build housing for Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Barak says he plans to renovate the Labor Party and "give it new momentum, reshape its agenda." Currently, many Israelis see Labor as the party of the elite, dedicated to giving away land to the Arabs. But Barak says that the public knows he will never relinquish any vital asset of the land of Israel: "This gives me a kind of credibility that can compensate for our being a little bit left of Likud for the time being."

Barak stresses that he believes Netanyahu is moving toward what he describes as a "Rabin-like" approach to the peace process. He says Netanyahu is not an ideologue, and that he may even make a peace treaty with the Palestinians. Why? Because above all else, Barak argues, the Israeli prime minister is committed to his political survival. As for Netanyahu's recent plan to return 40 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinians, he says "it's just talk."

Some argue that the only hope for Netanyahu is to escape from his right-wing coalition partners and form a unity government with the Labor Party. Would Barak consider such an idea? "It's not inconceivable in case of a full-scale war or a major catastrophe," he said. Otherwise, he sees his role as trying to persuade people to replace the Likud-led government with a Labor government.

Barak worries that there may be renewed violence on the West Bank with the Palestinians and on Israel's northern border with Syria. "We have nothing to gain," he says bleakly. "After renewed violence we will bury our losses, and they will bury theirs. Then, we'll sit down to the negotiating table and negotiate the same issues. Without the peace process, there will be no security," he said. The alternative is terror-



Barak

ism and increased defense spending. Moreover, Barak believes that if the peace process grinds to a halt, the Israeli economy may head into a recession. Thus, were he elected prime minister, he'd resume negotiations with the Palestinians and the Syrians and try to restore the good relationships Israel formerly enjoyed with President Mubarak and King Hussein.

About 10 years ago, an Israeli magazine wrote a feature article about two young men, Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak—predicting that one day they would lead their parties and their country. This prediction has come true. The torch has passed from the aging founders of the state—Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Shamir, Rabin and Peres—who ruled Israel for so long to a new generation—Netanyahu and Barak. So far, Netanyahu is stumbling after ten years in office. Elections are not scheduled to be held for three years. But to Israel, the unpredictable often happens. And, sooner or later, it's a good bet that Ehud Barak will get a chance to try his hand at leadership. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Orphaned by the Khmer Rouge

Children Of Cambodia's Killing Fields, By Dith Pran. Yale University Press, £16.95, 119 pages.

Reviewed by Kieran Cooke

UNDERSTATEMENT CAN be a terrifying thing. Susie Hem was five years old when Pol Pot and his murderous Khmer Rouge swept into Phnom Penh in early 1975. Four and a half years later the Vietnamese invaded. "We were freed from Pol Pot's dictatorship and rudeness."

Rudeness? More than 1.5 million killed. Torture on a massive scale. Anyone with glasses condemned as an intellectual, taken out and hacked to death. The starving forced into cannibalism.

Susie is now a beautiful in Long Beach, California. Few of those she polishes and preens can have any inkling of the horrors she has endured. "Pol Pot forced all of us to work. If someone didn't work hard, he or she would be killed in front of other people. We worked from five in the morning until dark. We got to rest for only 10 minutes, twice a day... Every night many families were being killed by Pol Pot's soldiers."

How Susie and hundreds of thousands of fellow Cambodians survived such times is a remarkable testament to humanity's strength and resilience. How they manage to reflect on those years with such poise and equanimity is nothing short of miraculous.

What drove the Khmer Rouge to such depths of barbarity is the big, unanswered question an excursion into a world gone mad.

Dith Pran, the Cambodian associate of US journalist Sydney Schanberg whose experiences were portrayed in the film *The Killing Fields*, has gathered together 29 accounts of those caught up in the Khmer Rouge butchery. They are short, simply told tales, all the more

gripping as a result.

On April 16 1975, Sreytouth Sway-Ryser, then seven, was excitedly preparing for the Cambodian New Year's celebration at her sister's house in Phnom Penh. Gifts were being wrapped, food cooked. A tank went past the house. Khmer Rouge soldiers, some as young as 12 and all dressed in black, ordered the family at gunpoint to leave the capital.

The official story was that the US was about to bomb Phnom Penh. After a time, the reality sank in. The Khmer Rouge, formed in the countryside and deeply suspicious of urban dwellers, wanted to send all city people to the rice fields and jungle whether they died or not in the process was irrelevant.

"They told us we were void. We were less than a grain of rice in a large pile. The Khmer Rouge said that the Communist revolution could be successful with only two people. Our lives had no significance to their great Communist nation, and they told us, 'To keep you is no benefit, to destroy you is no loss.'"

Yuokimny Chan was 14 in 1975. At first he had no fear of the Khmer Rouge. "These soldiers were our countrymen. We had no reason not to believe them... leaving Phnom Penh was an adventure. Thousands of people were leaving at the same time. The streets and sidewalks were covered with people carrying bags and cars crept along slowly in the congestion. There was so much ooze."

Soon death was the only sight and sound Yuokimny would experience. He walked for two and half months. Unused to life in the countryside, the family soon succumbed to malaria and elder brothers were beaten to death. (To save bullets the Khmer Rouge killed by beating people with the back of a hoe or with bamboo poles.)

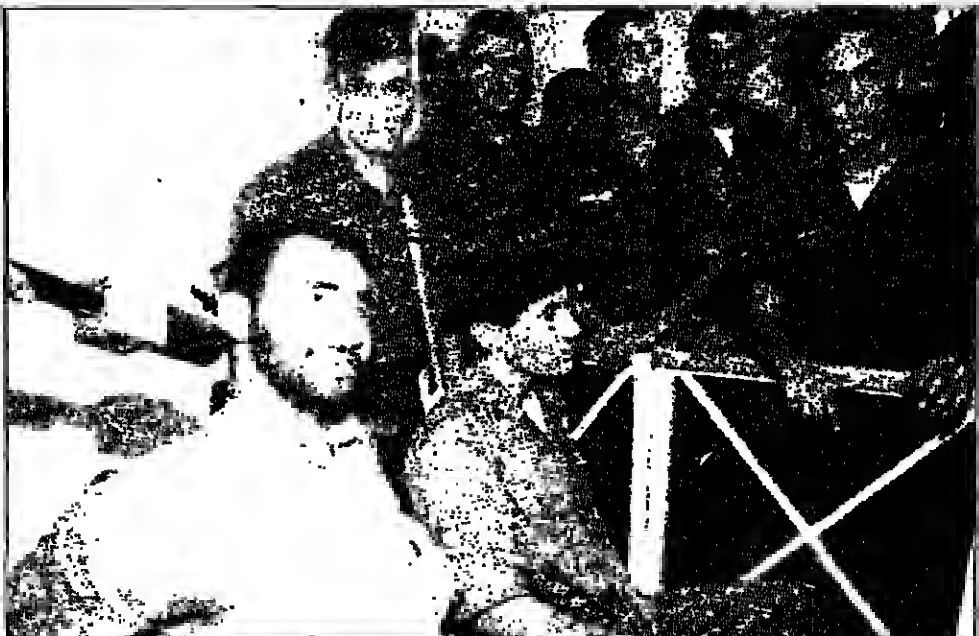
Children were encouraged to inform on their parents. "Familyism," a Khmer Rouge term for missing one's loved ones, became a crime, often punishable by death. Children were supposed to devote themselves to Angkor, the Khmer Rouge high command.

As their world was brutally turned upside down, many of these children became desperate. "I wanted to commit suicide but I couldn't," says Teeda Butt Mam, then 15 years old. "If I did, I would be labelled the enemy because I dared to show my unhappiness with their regime. My death would be followed by my family's death because they were the family of the enemy."

Even after the nightmare was over many of these children still had to endure years of suffering, being beaten and robbed by border guards in Thailand and spending months on end in refugee camps, uncertain of their fate. It is a continuing indictment of the world community that Khmer Rouge leaders have not been punished for their crimes.

Dith Pran has photos of each of the contributors, most now settled to the US. There is little bitterness to the faces, only freshness and optimism. Yet behind the smiles is the sadness of a lost childhood and a lost home. "Sometimes I sit down and cry and think about the past," says one of the survivors. "But life goes on, and I have to learn to take care of myself." ■

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Hassan Salamah, a Hamas activist, smiles as he listens to the 46 life sentences that was passed down on him by an Israeli court, Monday. Salamah was convicted of carrying out three suicide bombings in Israel which killed 46 people last year.

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كاننا من الأشجار

Palestinian Authority dealings spark concern

By Rebecca Trounson

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—At the beachfront headquarters of the Al Bahar company, lush gardens, colorful cabanas and a bar boasting Gaza's first belly dancers provide an oasis for this city's moneyed elite.

But critics say the powerful enterprise, owned by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority, is a symbol of corruption, a company that has ballooned by sweeping competitors aside and benefiting unfairly from top-level connections.

Now officially public, Al Bahar was registered until recently as a private business owned by the directors-general of Arafat's office and of his finance ministry.

Nearby, in Gaza City's best district, an armed sentry keeps watch outside a stately villa built by Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat's deputy and likely heir. The lavishly decorated home features semicircular stone balconies and wood trim, which

are luxuries in impoverished Gaza—but not for top Palestinian officials, many of whom are putting up grand dwellings citywide.

On Gaza's dusty, pined streets, trucks of the authority's monopolies carry imported gasoline, cement and flour to consumers who must now pay more for such basics. But revenue from the items does not appear in the Palestinian budget, where it could be reviewed by lawmakers and international aid agencies; it is, instead, diverted to accounts outside the control of the authority's own finance ministry.

Marwan Burghouthi, a Ramallah lawmaker who is close to Arafat and who heads his Fatah faction in the West Bank, does not hesitate as to what to call such problems: "We have corruption. I have full confidence in Mr. Arafat and that he is not personally involved. But why does he allow this?"

Across the Palestinian-controlled territories, there is growing concern and angry

cynicism about conflicts of interest, monopolies and brazen displays of wealth in the PNA. Three years after the self-rule government assumed power in Gaza and parts of the West Bank, Palestinians are increasingly critical of their own leadership.

Most stop well short, however, of accusing Arafat—whom one refugee camp resident described as a national symbol, "like the Palestinian flag"—of complicity. The Palestinian leader is renowned for a relatively modest lifestyle and is seen as having little desire to enrich himself.

But that view does not hold true for the cadre of Palestine Liberation Organization officials who accompanied Arafat to Beirut and Tunis, Tunisia, and returned with him from exile in 1994.

"We have our own economic Mafia that is trying to become rich by exploiting the authority's weakness," said Hatem Abdel Qader, a Fatah member and outspoken Jerusalem legislator who terms the situation a "catastrophe."

"We are not afraid of Israel as much as we fear our own internal situation," he said. "This is destroying our economy and establishing two classes: one that is very poor and one that benefits."

There is reason for concern. An internal audit, announced 23 May, showed that the Palestinian government, through its ministries and official institutions, squandered or lost \$326 million—a sum equal to about 40 percent of its 1997 budget.

The audit, of which only an outline has been made public, was praised by Western diplomats and Palestinian leaders as a laudable effort by a fledgling democracy still learning to police itself and its money.

Still, the audit, commissioned by Arafat and overseen by Jarar Kudwah, who is related to the Palestinian leader by marriage, overlooked serious irregularities in the Palestinian budget and economy, according to legislators, Western diplomats and international agencies that assist the young government.

Those interviewed said the most problematic areas include: authority bank accounts outside the control of the finance ministry; the involvement of top Palestinian officials or their relatives in companies that receive hefty government contracts; and authority-run monopolies that stifle competition, driving prices of many



Headmistress of the Al Yaqubia School for Girls in Hebron, Arefa Obeid, shows torn pages from the Koran which were ripped and scattered on the floor by Israeli settlers, Friday.

commodities higher and higher.

Nabil Abu Rudaineh, Arafat's spokesman, said he could not comment on specifics of the audit report or the broader allegations of corruption. He noted that Arafat has asked a panel of Palestinian academics and judges to study its findings and return with recommendations this month.

But Abu Rudaineh said reporters, particularly the Israeli media, were using the report to "smear" the Palestinian National Authority and distract attention from what he termed more serious problems, including Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied land and the 4-month-old crisis in the peace process. "If there is any wrongdoing found, nobody will keep silent," he said. "We will follow it up and take action."

As for the Al Bahar company, it would be tough to ignore.

Critics describe the multifaceted business as the most egregious—and most visible—example of the Palestinian Authority's unhealthy tendency to blend government and business. Al Bahar ("The Sea," in Arabic) gobbles up smaller companies, takes over buildings—like the city's Shawa Cultural Center—and never seems to submit a public bid, they say.

Hashem Abu Nada—Al Bahar's former co-owner and now its general director and board member—says he's aware of the public clamor about the company, which has interests in real estate, a medical center, an advertising agency, a gravel factory, a hotel and a horse-racing club.

"They are jealous because we grow so big, so fast," said Abu Nada, who is also director-general of the Palestinian finance

ministry. "We are working 18 hours every day—like donkeys—to build this country, to bring the dollars here from outside, every way we can."

Abu Nada said he saw no conflict between his role in the once-private company and as a top official in the Palestinian government. "I wear two hats," he said.

Others do, too. Either personally or through relatives, many top-ranking officials are involved in private companies that do business with the Palestinian Authority. "These are clear cases of conflict of interest," said Hisham Awartani, a leading Palestinian economist.

Awartani, who heads the economics department at the Nablus-based Center for Palestine Research and Studies, recently oversaw a study of the Palestinian Authority's cement monopoly. Created in 1995, the monopoly has kept the price of cement artificially high, the center's report concludes, "on account of the dire need of the Palestinian National Authority for cash revenue."

The Palestinians created many other monopolies—in collaboration with companies in Israel—to import gasoline, paint, steel, meat, flour and other basics, which have sent prices soaring. "This state-run economy is not the system Mr. Arafat pledged to us," Awartani said. "I still believe that a free-market economy is what he wants. But for reasons I do not understand, we did not end up with that."

The monopolies' earnings are placed into five accounts outside the purview of the finance ministry—four in Palestinian banks in Gaza and one, controlled by Arafat and Finance Minister Mohammed

Zuhdi Nashashibi, at an Israeli bank in Tel Aviv.

"This situation is not good or laudable, but it's understandable," said one diplomat with knowledge of the accounts. "This is a government that very recently was a revolutionary organization. It may be some years to come before it can operate as a normal government."

The 88-member Palestinian legislature, which appointed a committee to investigate the recent audit and broader corruption allegations, is scheduled to debate the issue, possibly as early as this week. Qader, a committee member, said legislators are likely to call for economic reforms, which, he admits, will almost certainly not be implemented.

Arafat has ignored virtually all the laws and resolutions the legislature has sent him since its formation.

Qader and other members of the increasingly feisty legislature, which recently challenged several top ministers on their spending habits, said the audit was intended to deflect growing concern on the street about misuse of public money.

In fact, it may have heightened public unease.

A recent poll of Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip showed that almost 52 percent of those surveyed said they would support a legislative vote to bring down the government, based on the audit's findings. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Young children take part in the "revolution of hunger" demonstration, that was held in Ba'albak, Lebanon, last Friday. About 10,000 people took part in the protest that was organized by Hizbollah. This is despite the fact that the government has banned demonstrations since 1993. Hizbollah leader Sheikh Tuflehi called on the government to introduce reforms related to the high cost of living that is affecting the poor.

Could there be life on Mars?

Camera crew assembles 3-D postcards into stunning Martian panorama

By Kathy Sawyer

PASADENA, California—Throughout the Space Age, workers in the Multi-Mission Image Processing Laboratory have been the first humans to glimpse postcards from alien worlds.

But this week, they say, they have outdone themselves—churning out stunning images that have been pouring into NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory from the Pathfinder spacecraft on Mars many times faster than ever before.

"Even we are amazed we could do it on this kind of time scale," said Bill Greer, one of a staff of 20.

The first 360-degree panorama of the stark scenery at the Pathfinder landing site went up on a wall here at about 5:30 a.m. EDT Saturday. Fifteen feet long, it shows portions of the spacecraft in such clear detail that "you can tell whether a screw is a Phillips head screw or the other kind," Greer said.

The panorama is a mosaic compiled from 330 images—110 each in blue, red and green—taken with a camera known as IMP (Imager for Mars Pathfinder). The IMP was designed to "see" like a person—out of two eyes set wide enough apart to create separate "stereo" images. The slight difference in the angles creates depth perception. The camera's head has what looks like a face, said Peter Smith, of the University of Arizona, lead IMP scientist. In fact, that face was visible in the larger-than-life panorama, reflected in hardware as if IMP were peering before a mirror.

The MMPL crew left the huge vista hanging on the wall as a special gift for their scientific comrades as they arrived back at work after a few hours of sleep at the end of landing day last Friday.

The images are not only stunning as



picture postcards, revealing new topographies on Mars. They are an integral part of the team's scientific mission.

IMP does not take simple snapshots. Its head contains two filter wheels, each holding a total of 24 filters that are controlled from here. The scientists choose which filters are appropriate for a certain image and the wheels spin to put them in place.

Using the same technique that's

employed to make 3-D movies, the colors in the images are slightly offset, creating a view in three dimensions. Ground controllers will wear special goggles to view the images in three dimensions and pick a safe path for Sojourner, Pathfinder's remote-controlled robot rover, through the rocky landscape.

The IMP team was waiting anxiously for their turn to stand the camera up to its "full adult height" of more than five feet, Smith said. After all, it had endured a very rough economy class ride to get there.

"Its forehead was against the solar panel; the rover was pressed against its left ear, right ear had the high gain antenna, and the parachute canister against the back of its neck." It must have felt the jolt, he suggested, as the spacecraft's parachute ejected at 1,000 mph.

The camera takes panoramic images one small "tile" at a time. Its field of view is only 14 degrees, compared with human vision that may encompass 160 degrees—almost a total sweep from right to left.

In a room filled with computer consoles almost to the ceiling, the MMPL team relies on high-speed computers and what they describe as fiendishly clever software, written by their colleague Jean

Lorre, that assembles the small postage stamp pictures from IMP—the "tiles"—into a complete mosaic.

"It's like having eyes on the surface of Mars," said Eric de Jong. As the camera rotates, "it looks just like turning your head and looking around." ■

LA Times-The Washington Post News Service

Scientists hope to see Mars' history in rocks

By Robert Cooke

PASADENA, California—Most of the folks in this world would not rejoice much at finding just rocks, rocks and more rocks. In the rugged world of Mars, however, rocks are about all you get.

Which, of course, is thrilling for the geologists working on the Pathfinder mission. They now have rocks galore, probably the oldest rocks ever examined, sitting on their home territory. And in the rocks, somewhere on Mars, is probably written the history of the cold, freeze-dried planet.

Even though the researchers must work via remote control, asking distant robotic instruments to inspect rocks, test the soil, snap pictures and send home the results, the findings have begun pouring in. Without personally touching the rocks, the sci-

entists think they can begin deciphering the red planet's ancient history.

"I cannot tell you how excited this group of geologists is," said Matthew Golombek, the Mars Pathfinder project scientist. It was almost immediately clear that at Pathfinder's landing site "we have a variety of colors, textures, fabrics and sizes" in the rocks that can be seen.

Even before Pathfinder had been on Martian soil three days, Golombek said, "My highest hope has already been achieved; we've landed in the most spectacular place we've ever seen on Mars."

The diversity already evident in the rocks, plus large hills that can be seen on the horizon beyond the landing site in Ares Vallis, make the mission far more interesting—to geologists—than the two relatively flat and homogeneous sites where Viking I and Viking II sat down in 1976. Ares Vallis was chosen as Path-

finder's target for touchdown because it looks like a place where a huge flow of water has poured across the ground, perhaps more than once. It's the outflow channel from what was apparently an ancient flood plain.

"The \$24,000 question is whether Mars was once the same as the early Earth," Golombek said. That question is so important because it relates directly to the chances that life once existed on a planet that now seems far too hostile to support anything alive, at least on its surface.

Golombek noted there is evidence on Earth that life began very early, probably more than 3 billion years ago. And because Mars probably has the same abundance of chemicals as Earth, and if it was once as warm and wet as the Earth, then early forms of life—probably microbial—are more likely.

"We don't know whether Mars was once warmer and wetter," Golombek said. But it is known that some cataclysmic event, such as heating from volcanism, or a massive earthquake, caused a huge store of underground water to come pouring out onto the surface and flow down through the channel where Pathfinder now sits. The evidence being seen in Mars also suggests it happened more than once.

Golombek said the channel seems to be between 1 billion and 2 billion years old—based on the number of impact craters that can be counted—while the rocks that were carried down into the channel are probably at least 2 billion years old. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



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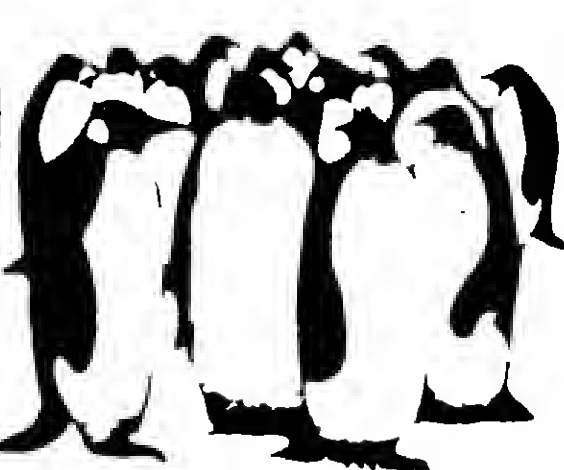
10 JULY 1997

10 JULY 1997

P E O P L E

THE STAR 7

AROUND TOWN



Congratulations

Television news reporter for JTV's Arabic channel, Rima Obeidat, was recently married to Ibrahim Bshara who works in the Investment Promotion Corp.



Portrait of a flower:

Jan Kassay and the art of photography

By Nahla Omar Rifai
Special to The Star

Captivating, enlightening, and beautiful. These are the adjectives to describe the latest flower photographic exhibition by Jan Kassay at the French Cultural Centre in Jabbal Lweishdeh.

The exhibition contained inspiring photographs of flowers that Kassay had taken herself. With an expert eye, and through a professional lens, flowers radiated. It seems that the photographer could do no wrong. From whatever angle, the flowers just came to life.

Their rich colors are vividly portrayed, each

varying in depth and shade. Luscious yellow daffodils, deep red tulips and delicate white roses are but a sample of this beautiful collection.

Kassay also used various juicy fruits which were artistically arranged to bring out the best in the photographs.

Particularly striking was that of a slightly slit strawberry, elegantly placed on a papaya fruit. The magnificent red of the strawberry from the outside, the lighter pinkish-red of its inside, and the dewy yellow of the papaya beneath, created an appetizing clip.

The mixture of flowers in color and arrangement was simply enigmatic: a sight for sore

eyes any day. The photographs were crystal clear and they presented close-ups of nature's marvels.

One fine photograph was that of overlapping, almost transparent lilac and yellow petals. A particularly interesting one was that of a plate of olives with pita bread in the background. They were black, brown and green olives, and had a lustrous sheen to them, as if the morning sun shined down upon them. The sight looked splendid with thin, cut pieces of lemon intricately placed amongst the olives.

Indeed, Kassay's photographs were not simply close-ups of nature and its beauty. For they expressed her obvious understanding of different angles of light, different shades of color and an art of arrangement that she so tastefully employed in her photographs.

Kassay chose large format transparency film because it gives greater depth and sharpness. From these transparencies, the prints were done using the cibachrome printing process.

This direct positive printing process provides exhibition quality prints that match the crisp feel and intense color of the original work. Cibachrome deluxe prints are also recognized as having superb resistance to fading. These exquisite photographs range in price from JD 175 to JD 750.

Kassay participated in many international venues. In 1988 she held an exhibition in the Washington Arts Club in Washington DC. This was followed by an individual exhibition in the Broadway gallery in Virginia, USA in 1990.

In 1986 she received the award of excellence from the Photographers Forum. That year she also won the first prize in the "New Concepts/Best Directions." This was the 37th annual exhibition, from the Arts Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington. In 1989, she received another first prize award from the Broadway gallery, and in 1991 she received an award in a juried exhibit by the Women's Caucus for Art.

Ms Kassay's photographs have also appeared on many a calendar and greeting card. In addition to covers and back covers of books and magazines.

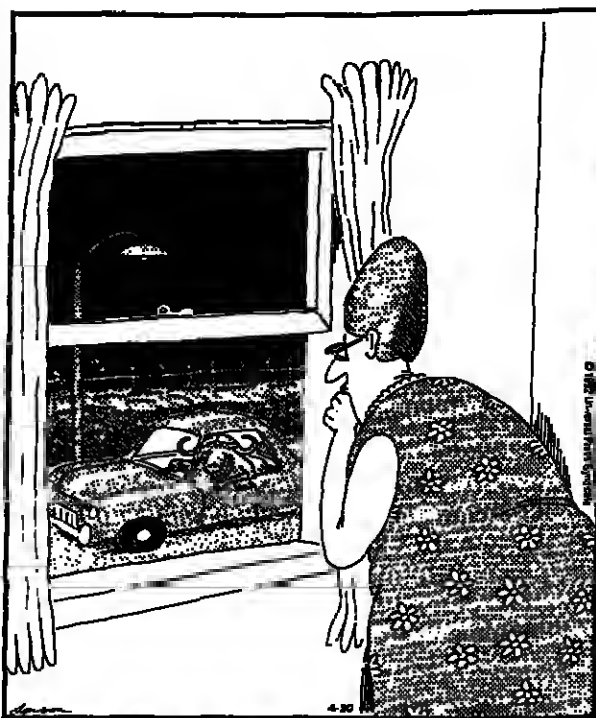
Many of Kassay's impressive photographs have been sold to select but regular clients. Al Bourgan Crafts, Amra hotel, Al Zay clothing, Kan Zaman, UNICEF, and the Arab Academy for Banking and Finance are but a few.

The artist's current exhibition continues till 29 July. So for all those art lovers out there, be sure not to miss it!



THE FAR SIDE

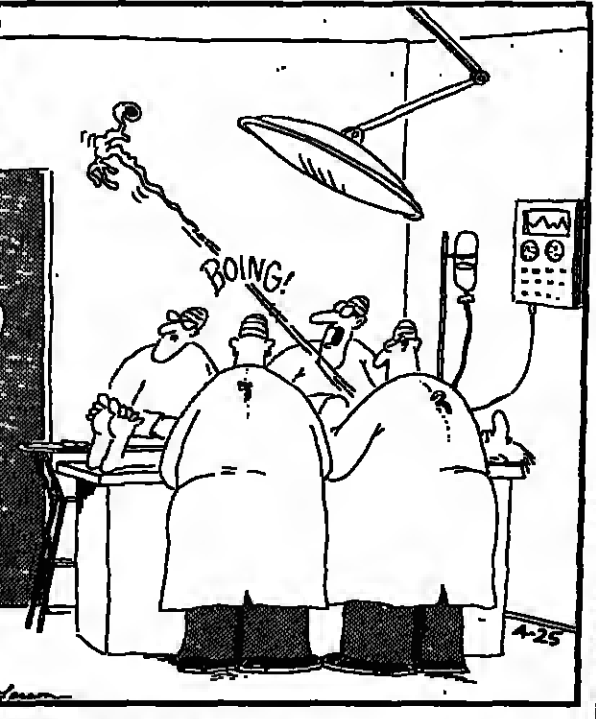
By GARY LARSON



Scene from "Cape Buffalo Fear"



"Dang! That dog's been up on the sofa again, Hank — I just know it!"



"Whoa! Watch where that thing lands — we'll probably need it."

Presented by the National Music Conservatory
Classical music at Jerash festival

AT THE close of last year's Jerash festival for Culture and Arts, over 2000 people enjoyed a classical musical evening that featured the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory (NMC). This wonderful amalgamation of musicians performed an exciting program that reached its climax when fireworks were launched to light the sky as part of Tchaikovsky's brilliant "1812" overture.

This scene will be repeated four times this July as the Jerash Festival, in cooperation with the NMC, presents four major orchestral performances.

On Friday 25 July, at the North Theatre, the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra, under the baton of maestro Henry Gallois, and the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory will join in performing "Capriccio Italian", another one of Tchaikovsky's brilliant compositions. Ninety-four of the best musicians in the Mediterranean area will sit next to 62 musicians from the Jordanian Orchestra to perform this outstanding work. In addition, the program will feature the "Young Perso's Guide to the Orchestra" by Benjamin Britten and "Alborado Gracioso" by Maurice Ravel. Britten's piece was composed especially to introduce the instruments of the Orchestra in

an exciting frame, appealing to all ages.

In addition to the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra which comes to Jerash under the joint auspices of the European Union and the French government, the European Union, once again, presents the Jerash festival as a 22-persons orchestra to perform masterpieces of the Baroque period which is noted for ornamentation palaces that were part of the architecture of Europe in the 17th and mid-18th centuries. These ornaments and decorations were evident in all art forms, at the forefront of which is music.

The European Union's Baroque Orchestra, under the baton of Roy Goodman, will present two different performances on Sunday 3 August and Monday 4 August, at the North Theatre and the Royal Cultural Center respectively. Each performance features pieces written by some of the most famous composers of the Baroque period such as: Vivaldi, Bach, Emmanuel Handel, Telemann, Quantz and Rameau. The concert is held in cooperation with Mouscheita Europe Electricity Foundation.

The third orchestral performance will be held on Saturday 9 August at the North Theatre and will feature the Montreal Baroque orchestra. The Orchestra is conducted by its harpsichord player, Joel Thifault. The program of the eve-

ning features pieces by prominent composers such as Carl Phillip, Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Corelli, Vivaldi and Mozart.

The last of these orchestral performances will be held on the closing day of the Jerash Festival at the North Theatre which will host a grand musical show featuring the Orchestra of the NMC accompanied by a big choir, solo vocalists and a pianist.

Following its tradition of presenting programs that appeal to Arabs and foreigners alike in its Jerash concert, the NMC has prepared a varied and delightful program that features the music of the famous musical "Cats", excerpts from the romantic film "Sound of Music" and an outstanding performance on the piano by an 11-year-old local talent accompanied by the Orchestra.

In addition, the program will feature the following Arab songs: *Beini On Baina Ya Hal Layl*, *El Hilwa de Amrit Te'gin*, *Til'a Yama Akla Nuriya*, *Ya Qisas*, *Ya Lar Hubikki*, *Ya Zahran Fec Khayali*, *Akhir Eyan el Saifeh* and *Mawashah Badru Tam*.

The orchestra is conducted by Mohammad Sidqi and the Choir is trained by Samia Ghanoun. Rita Madi and Arminak Arminak.

Inter.Com and BMW
hit world by storm

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels and Resorts announced the launch of a unique roadster with the luxury car maker BMW.

The promotion which runs until December 31 1997, provides existing and new members of Intercontinental Hotels loyalty programme, Six Continents Club, with the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win a new BMW Z3 Roadster.

The promotion creates a partnership between BMW and Intercontinental Hotels who are known for excellence. "There is a great deal of synergy between our two companies," said Steffen Banks, area vice president sales and marketing Middle East and Africa for Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts. "Both companies attract a similar profile of customers, in particular a similar profile of customers, in fact many of our guests drive a BMW; therefore it is a perfect promotion which will benefit our loyal guests."

Running at all of Intercontinental Hotels in Middle East and Africa, programme members are entitled one entry to the draw each time they check in to an Intercontinental hotel in the region. The same applies to non-members who choose to join the Six Continents Club upon check-in added Banks. Membership cost is \$100 per year with a renewal fee of \$25 thereafter. The membership fee is waived if the guest stays more than 30 days per year, with the member achieving an Executive membership level (Executive members receive two entries every time they stay a hotel).

The BMW promotion is a further addition to the range of privileges enjoyed by members of the Six Continents Club such as a special check-in area, upgrade to a superior room—guests pass a single rate for a double occupancy—plus a VIP greeting and in-room gift, as well as an express check-out facility and check-out time extended to 4 pm, concluded Banks.

Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts is owned by the Saison group of Japan and is represented worldwide via corporate offices in Amsterdam, Cairo, Hong Kong, London, Miami and New York. The company's portfolio now includes more than 200 hotels in 71 countries, which includes its first-class Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts brand, mid-price hotels under the Forum Hotels and Resorts and Global Partners Hotels and Resorts.

Coca Cola Jordan
receives quality award

THE JORDAN Coca Cola Company was awarded the Silver Award for Quality by the international Coca Cola Company, Phillip Giorgio, regional manager of the Far East Coca Cola division, presented this award of excellence to the workers of the Coca Cola Company, Jordan.

Aziz Yousef, the general manager of the Jordan Coca Cola branch, thanked the "mother" Company for its appreciation and support of Jordan Coca Cola soft drinks. Yabya Ghazal, manager of the Jordan branch, also extended his thanks to the international Coca Cola Company. He said that the Coca Cola "mother's" appreciation



came as a recognition of the great efforts of the Jordanian workers who produced Coca Cola products in accordance with the international Coca Cola acclaimed standard.

SLAPSTIX
An atheist is a person
who has no invisible
means of support.

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AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ "The Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition" showing the works of more than 60 artists from the Arab world, continues at Darat al Funun, runs till 24 July.
■ Paintings by nine contemporary Iraqi artists, entitled "Ecology & Environment in the Iraqi Art", at the Royal Society of Fine Arts, runs till 12 July.
■ Artworks of Sami Gamrah entitled "Biyoot Min Al Sah" continues at Al Tagadam Association (Dabouq-Al Hummar) till 14 July.
■ An exhibition entitled "Silver Jewelry" continues at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation till 20 July.

■ The artworks of Karim Rasim at Orient Gallery finish today 10 July.

Film

■ Honey I Shrank The Kids at The American Center, Thursday 10 July, at 5:00 pm. (Eng.)
■ Fantasia at The American Center, Thursday 24 July, at 5:00 pm. (Eng.)
■ Espion lève-toi at The French Cultural Center, Monday 13 July, at 8:30 pm. (Fre.)
■ Asterix in Britain at British Council, Tuesday 15 July, at 5:00 pm. (Eng.)
■ Playdays on the Move at British Council, Wednesday 16 July, at 5:00 pm. (Eng.)

Jordanian companies taking part in partnership

Jordan: JD 20 (Home delivery or by Post)
Arab countries: US\$ 100
Europe - USA - Canada - Australia: US\$ 75

هَذَا مِنْ أَشْهَالِ

Nashashibi & Ebbini Forms Regional pioneers in computer forms

NASHASHIBI & Ebbini Forms was the first in Jordan and the Middle East to produce computer forms and labels of all kinds. Since it was established in 1979, the company has sought to develop new markets, and satisfy the requirements of its clients. Today, it is market leader in the region.

The company has a well established customer base around the Arab world and is eager to develop markets in Asia, Europe, and Africa. Recently export market expanded to include Ethiopia, Cyprus and Lebanon. Nashashibi & Ebbini Forms aims at reaching a level of workmanship in design, materials, layout and production equal to that of any country in the world.

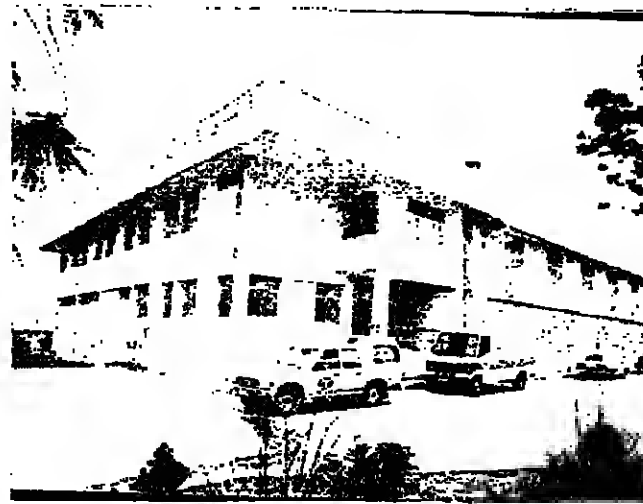


Othman Nashashibi

The work in designing and producing computer forms and labels in all types, as well as printed labels in rolls and other technical and medical forms require accuracy, reliability and comprehensive quality system. The company managed to maintain this and obtained the EN ISO 9001:1994 certificate from National Quality Assurance, U.K.

As customers demand delivery schedules to count on, the company is committed to provide the clients with the service they desire.

It has been its objective to stay in the leading edge with the latest advances in materials, equipment, and printing techniques used worldwide. New equipment was recently acquired allowing substantial increase in capacity as well as additional versatility. The company plays an important role in the development of the paper converting industry in the Arab World through its participation in professional associations such as the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Arab Federation for Paper Printing and Packaging Industries and the International Business Forms Industries (IBFI).



Nashashibi & Ebbini Forms specializes in:
■ Continuous Computer Forms in wvt paper, carbon-

less and other special quality papers, also in different sizes.

■ Self-Adhesive Labels for computers and laser printers as well as labels in rolls.

■ Snap-sets, medical forms used for E.E.G. & E.C.G. and other Technical Forms.

Jordanian companies taking part in partnership

Continued from page 8

Sea Products
■ Jordan Industrial Resources Co.
■ Jordan Medical Corporation Ltd.
■ Jordan Minerals establishment (JME)
■ Jordan Rubber Industries
■ Jordan Sipes Paints Company
■ Jordanian Tunisian Chemical Co.
■ Kamel Azar and Sons Co.
■ Modern Company for Fertilizer Production
■ Munir Sukhian Group
■ National Ammonia and Chemical Industries
■ National Drip Irrigation Co. Ltd.
■ National Faints Factories Co. Ltd.
■ Olympia Factory for Chemical Industries
■ Orient Plastic Company
■ Oscar Dead Sea Products Corporation
■ Plastik for Plastic Industrial Co.
■ Ram Pharmaceutical Company
■ The Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
■ The Industrial Commercial & Agricultural Co.
■ Universal Salts Ltd.
■ World Plastics for Construction Industries
■ Yamama Agri-Products Industrial Co. (YAPI)
■ Zaza Natural Dead Sea Products
■ Zoar Natural Dead Sea Products

Bureau (CEB)
■ Eastern Chains Co. for Goldsmith & Jewelry Ltd.
■ Elias Nasser and Associates
■ Elshakr Trading Establishment
■ H. Q. and Partner
■ Integrated Technology Group
■ Itkan Establishment
■ Jordan Exporters & Producers Assoc. for Fruit & Vegetables
■ Jordan Group Shipping Agencies Ltd.
■ Jordan Investment Corporation
■ Jordan Technical Consultants Group (JTCG)
■ Jordan Technology Group Ltd.
■ Management Consultants Group International
■ Michael Dabbi & Associates
■ Attorneys at Law
■ Philadelphia Consulting Group Ltd.
■ Talal Abu Ghazaleh International Co.

Co.
■ Jordan Universal Gas Cookers & Washing Machines
■ Kaddoura Engineering Establishment
■ Khalifeh Industrial Company
■ Metal Industries Co. Ltd. (METALCO)
■ Middle East Complex (MEC)
■ Nasser Manufacturing Trading Co.
■ National Multi Engineering Industries Co.
■ National Radiator Factory
■ Petra Engineering Industries Co.
■ Rum Metal Manufacturing Co.
■ Salmar Group
■ Universal Metal Extrusion Co.

Building material

■ A/W Yassin and Sons Co.
■ Arab Ceramic Industries Co.
■ Attaneeb Company
■ Jordan Cement Factories Co.
■ Jordan Metal Works Co. Ltd.
■ Jordan Rock Wool Industries Co.
■ Modern Industrial Marble and Granite Industries
■ Prefabricated Buildings Co.

Engineering, mechanical and electrical

■ Abu Hailam for Electronic & Electric Industries Corporation
■ Advanced Engineering Technologies Corporation
■ Ahliah Metal Industries Co.
■ Al Jalal Metal Industrial Co.
■ Al Wafra Trading and Industrial Est.
■ Aladdin Industries Co. Ltd.
■ Alfidia Industrial Establishment
■ Arab Engineering Industries Co. Ltd.
■ Arabian Steel Pipes Manufacturing Co.
■ Ashour Industrial & Trading Co.
■ Beta Industries for Rotary Screw Compressors
■ Group for Cooperative Investments
■ Hatif Telecom Industries Co.
■ Household Appliances Manufacturing Co. (HAMCO)
■ International Est. for Manufacturing and Trading
■ Jordan Investment and General Consulting Company Ltd.
■ Jordan Sanitaryware Industrial

Furniture, paper and printing

■ Ayouthi Steel Furniture Factory
■ Dar Al Kemmah for Printing
■ Forum Furniture Co.
■ Jordan National Trading Co. Ltd.
■ Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Co. Ltd.
■ Jordan Wood Industries Co. Ltd. (JWICO)
■ Nashashibi & Ebbini Forms
■ Packaging Industries Co. Ltd.
■ Specialized Furniture Est.
■ Tissue Paper Mill Co.
■ Young Muslim Women Association Sheltered Workshop

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TEXTILES is a major part of the industrial fabric of any economy. With the International Industrial Investments Group, "III Group," the industrial sector in Jordan is developing. The III Group is one of the leaders in the manufacturing of knitted fabrics, and garments. It is involved in the knitting, dyeing, cutting and the sewing processes.

The main products are five rib, Jersey, fleece and interlock fabrics, Men's and women's underwear, T-shirts and sweatshirts which are made from the best Egyptian cotton. For more information, contact main Amman office at e-mail: iii@go.com.jo, fax: 6996000-1; 4162913; ■



Al Safi provides quality salts for industrial production

THE SAFI Salt Co. Ltd. (JOSSCO), which was established in January 1996 at a capital of \$17 million, is a public share holding company.

The company's factory is quite naturally located at the Dead sea—the lowest sheet of water on the earth's surface. The brines of the Dead sea are the saltiest in the world, consisting of 7.5 percent W/W Sodium Chloride, this is equivalent to a total of about 12 billion tons.

The sea is also rich with other salts and minerals such as Potash, Magnesium, Calcium Bromides and other elements.

The company operates a salt plant located at southern end of the Dead sea, together with loading and storage facilities in the port of Aqaba. Total investment in its facilities has been about \$26 million.

Mr Awni Ammarin, general manager of JOSSCO says "The salt plant has a capacity of 1.2 million tons per annum of industrial salt which is destined for export, either directly or through strategic alliances with inter-

national marketing net works. Its products include 32000 M.T. of high grade table salt and salt tablets in various packages, designed for local and regional markets."

The main export markets for the industrial salt are the countries in the Mediterranean basin and the Asian countries.

The main purpose of the company is to supply Chloro-Alkali industries which include high quality salt to countries all over the world.

Table salt is marketed in Jordan and the region to provide a quality product which



Ammarin.

is packaged in various forms and sizes.

The company employs 250 people in three locations and has an annual turnover of about \$26 million. ■

Kasih's canned food go back to mother nature

KASIH CANNED Food Production Co. was established in 1994 on the foot steps of its mother company Reslan Kasih & Sons Co. that was established in 1926.

Kasih Canned Food products include broad beans, chick peas, green peas, white beans in Tomato Paste plus Hommous Tahini.

The company has demonstrated its commitment to quality by being the first Jordanian food producer to obtain the ISO 9000 certification. In addition it has invested in a state of the art Tetra Pak package which is one of the best methods available for the preservation of food products.

Mr Mohammed Kasih, general manager, said the company is looking forward to its participation in the Medpartenariat '97. He considers it as an opportunity for the company to meet international business people, with whom several corporation opportunities are present in working together for mutual benefit. ■

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly
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Visit our Website
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At
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IN TETRA PACK CARTON

st Jordanian food production
company obtaining the
ISO 9002



Kasih Canned Food Production Company
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TEL: 962-6 874050, FAX: 962-6 874291

SAFI COMPANY LTD. (JOSSCO)

The Word SAFI Means Pure

Desired Cooperation —
The company seeks contact with a European partner in their field of specialization who could enhance the company's production and design capabilities in terms of design exchange, partial unit production and subcontracting. The company also seeks contact with wholesalers or agents to market and distribute its products in Europe.

Jordan Wood Industries Co. Ltd. P.O. Box 5272 Amman 11183 Jordan.
Tel. 962 (6) 438171 Fax 962 (6) 4394672, E-mail: export@jwico.com
www.jwico.com contact person Mr. Anwar Baddad

Jordan Wood Industries Co. Ltd. (JWICO)

JWICO was established in November 1995 as a joint-venture with Jutland Dore A/S of Denmark, which is the biggest and most technologically advanced company for producing wooden doors in Denmark.

At the beginning of 1979, the company started to export its doors to the Middle East. It succeeded so well that it had to double its production capacity. As a result it became a public share holding company at the end of 1982, and increased its paid-up capital.

In 1986, a new production line was installed for the manufacturing of panel furniture such as kitchen cabinets, bedroom and office furniture in addition to tables and chairs. In 1994 and 1995, sales of these products reached JD 5 million annually.

JWICO has recently implemented a large expansion program intended to double and improve its production of kitchen cabinets, bedroom and office furniture.

The company has two major production lines. The first one has a panel production capacity for case products including kitchen cabinets, bedroom and office furniture, of 6400 sq. ft per 8 hours shift. The second one of the production of solid wood components shift. The second one of the production of 300 PCs per 8 hours shift, and internal flush doors with a capacity of 300 PCs per 8 hours shift.

The company exports its products to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Israel. In order to satisfy the needs of these markets and other fast growing export markets, a new machinery has been purchased and a two storey building has been established.

The company plans to introduce new designs of office and bedroom furniture, in particular, open office space systems. The company is expected to get the ISO certification in 1997.

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Les hommes de la Révolution

ROBESPIERRE

Son élection comme député du Tiers aux Etats généraux met fin à une banale carrière d'avocat de province. Imprégné de son idéal Rousseauiste et de sa mission politique, Robespierre se veut irréprochable, dans sa vie politique bien entendu, mais aussi dans son apparence vestimentaire. Un témoignage de l'époque le décrit ainsi : « les yeux verts, le teint pâle, habit blanc rayé vert, gilet rayé bleu, cravate blanche rayée rouge ».

Dès 1789 il affiche des idées démocratiques. Il devient l'homme fort des Jacobins et se fait une réputation d'« incorruptible défenseur du peuple ». Elu à la convention il anime le groupe des Montagnards, pousse à la condamnation du roi et œuvre à la chute de la Gironde. A partir de juillet 1793, il siège sans discontinuer au Comité de salut public et met la Terreur à l'ordre du jour. Au printemps 1794, il abat tour à tour les hébertistes et les « indulgents ». Une coalition se forme contre lui, il est arrêté le 27 juillet 1794 et guillotiné le lendemain.

Sports

121 athlètes prêts à tout

Pour la 8ème fois consécutive, la Jordanie participe aux Jeux Panarabes qui commencent ce samedi et se tiendront jusqu'au 27 juillet à Beyrouth. Revue des troupes à deux jours de la compétition.

L'an passé, les Jeux Panarabes avaient été annulés en raison des bombardements israéliens dans le sud du Liban. Cette fois, ils auront bien lieu. « La compétition sera de haut niveau », annonce Amer Al-Weizani, le champion de natation. « Depuis quelques années déjà, nous avons des entraînements intensifs tous les jours de la semaine ». Amer est détenteur du record national en 100 et 200 mètres papillon et il se sent prêt à relever le défi. Son objectif : décrocher une médaille de bronze. Les ambitions ne sont pas les mêmes pour Hana Majidi. C'est la première fois qu'elle participe à une telle compétition dans la catégorie senior : « Il est vrai que j'ai fait partie de l'équipe nationale depuis 10 ans mais mon expérience au niveau international reste limitée ». En junior, Hana a tout de même pris part au championnat des Pays de la Méditerranée en Turquie et au championnat des pays arabes, qui s'est tenu dernièrement en Jordanie. Malgré sa courte expérience internationale, elle entend enregistrer un record personnel : « C'est nouveau pour moi mais je ferai de mon mieux pour ramener la victoire ».

De la même manière, l'équipe de basket-ball entame les derniers préparatifs et multiplie les compétitions locales afin de se familiariser avec l'atmosphère des matchs. L'arrivée de Zeid Alkas renforce l'effectif jordanien et la confiance des joueurs. Alkas poursuit actuellement ses études aux Etats-Unis et il a été sélectionné récemment dans l'équipe internationale du Moyen-Orient pour affronter la Corée dans un championnat « All Stars ». Zeid Alkas y a été élu meilleur marqueur et meilleur tireur au lancer franc. « Nous avons perdu mais personnellement j'ai bien joué », avoue-t-il sans cacher sa satisfaction, « ce championnat était un bon moyen de préparer les Jeux Panarabes auxquels je

participe pour la première fois ». Les basketteurs savent que cette compétition ne sera pas une sinécure : « L'Egypte, le Liban et la Tunisie, si elles participent, sont les équipes à battre », reconnaissent les joueurs du royaume. « Nous n'avons qu'à faire notre possible, le reste c'est Dieu qui s'en occupe ».

En athlétisme, c'est Nada Kawa qui s'alignera dans les épreuves du disque, du javalot et du poids. La jeune athlète espère un résultat, après ses bonnes performances au niveau régional. Elle n'en sera pas à son coup d'essai. La première fois qu'elle a représenté la Jordanie, c'était l'année dernière aux Jeux Olympiques

d'Atlanta. Alors à Beyrouth, on s'attend à un coup de maître.

Rana Kawa-Bageen

La Jordanie présente 121 athlètes dans 13 épreuves sur les 20 proposées : football, taekwondo, karaté, judo, tennis de table, athlétisme, natation, lutte, boxe, basket-ball, équitation, tir, baltérophilie. Aux derniers Jeux Panarabes organisés en Syrie en 1992, le royaume jordanien avait terminé 9ème avec une médaille d'or, six d'argent et six de bronze.



Malgré une rude concurrence avec notamment l'Egypte et le Liban, les basketteurs jordanien comptent bien réaliser une performance.

Pas de 14 juillet

sans défilé militaire. L'heure de l'Europe. La fête de la Nation est celle de ses armées. Adoptant en 1880 le 14 juillet comme jour de fête nationale, la Troisième République avait fait de la distribution de nouveaux drapeaux aux régiments, le temps fort de cette nouvelle célébration. Depuis, sans aux heures noires de l'occupation, les revues militaires n'ont cessé de s'identifier au 14 juillet, avec une fervente poignance en 1919 et en 1945, année de paix gagnée.

Mais quelle est la filiation entre les parades militaires et la prise de la Bastille ? Quelle est la parenté entre les troupes en rangs impeccables et la foule accourue devant le fort légal transformé en prison royale, dans le but d'y trouver de la poudre et des munitions pour les 30.000 fusils pris le même jour ? C'est que la Révolution a connu deux 14 juillet : celui de 1789 et celui de 1790. Le second fut plus qu'une commémoration du premier. Ce jour-là, appelé fête de la Fédération (voir encadré), une manifestation enthousiaste rassemblait sur le Champ-de-Mars 14.000 gardes nationaux venus des 83 départements nouvellement créés. Par cette démonstration était affirmée l'unité nationale. Les gardes nationaux, prêtant serment de défendre « la liberté, la constitution et la loi », scellaient l'union du peuple et de sa force armée.

Les républicains de 1880 entendaient bien célébrer ces deux dates. Le jour de la fête nationale serait « par excellence la fête du peuple parce que celle de la liberté et de la patrie ». Selon les circonstances historiques, l'accent est mis sur l'aspect populaire, patriotique, la défense ou la conquête des libertés. « La chute de la Bastille, c'est la chute de toutes les bastilles », proclamait Victor Hugo.

Fête nationale française

Supplément spécial du Jourdain

Souvenirs, souvenirs

D'un 14 juillet à l'autre

Commémoré pendant la Révolution, puis banni du calendrier, le 14 juillet a été institué fête nationale en 1880. Avec ses défilés, ses bals et ses feux d'artifice, il est resté une fête populaire vivante.

Cette conviction allait inspirer les célébrations du bicentenaire, particulièrement lors de l'imaginative parade sur les Champs-Élysées.

Pas de fête populaire sans danse. La foule dansait à la Bastille après la reddition, et la Fête de la Fédération s'est achevée en danses et en chants sous la pluie. De nos jours aucune commune de France ne célèbre le 14 juillet sans son bal. Bal des pompiers, bals de quartier, bal du village, la danse l'emporte sur tous les airs. La nuit, les rues et les places sont à la musique. La

veille au soir, à la campagne et dans quelques grandes villes, des retraits au flambeau baladent des lampons dans le fracas et la fumée des pétards, derrière la fanfare ou l'harmonie.

La journée du 14 juillet est l'occasion de jeux, de tournois, de manifestations sportives ou folkloriques. Les comités des

fêtes organisent des banquets en plein air où les spécialités régionales cèdent parfois devant le méchoui, devenu plat traditionnel d'agapes rurales. Puis dominent les flonflons et les sonos, plus éclatants que les illuminations, les feux d'artifices jetés, à la nuit tombée, de l'allégresse dans les yeux, tracent, éphémères dans

la nuit, leurs palmiers ignés, leurs dômes ardents, leurs arborescences incandescentes, leurs ombrelles embrasées, leurs gerbes incendiaires, leurs pluies pyrophores, leur bouquet final.

Jean-Marc Dupuch

14 juillet 1790

Préparatifs pour la fête de la Fédération

La date du 14 juillet, prévue pour la fédération générale des Gardes Nationales du royaume, approche, et le Champ-de-Mars, lieu de la fête, n'est pas prêt à recevoir les participants : des travaux ont été pris dans les travaux de terrassement.

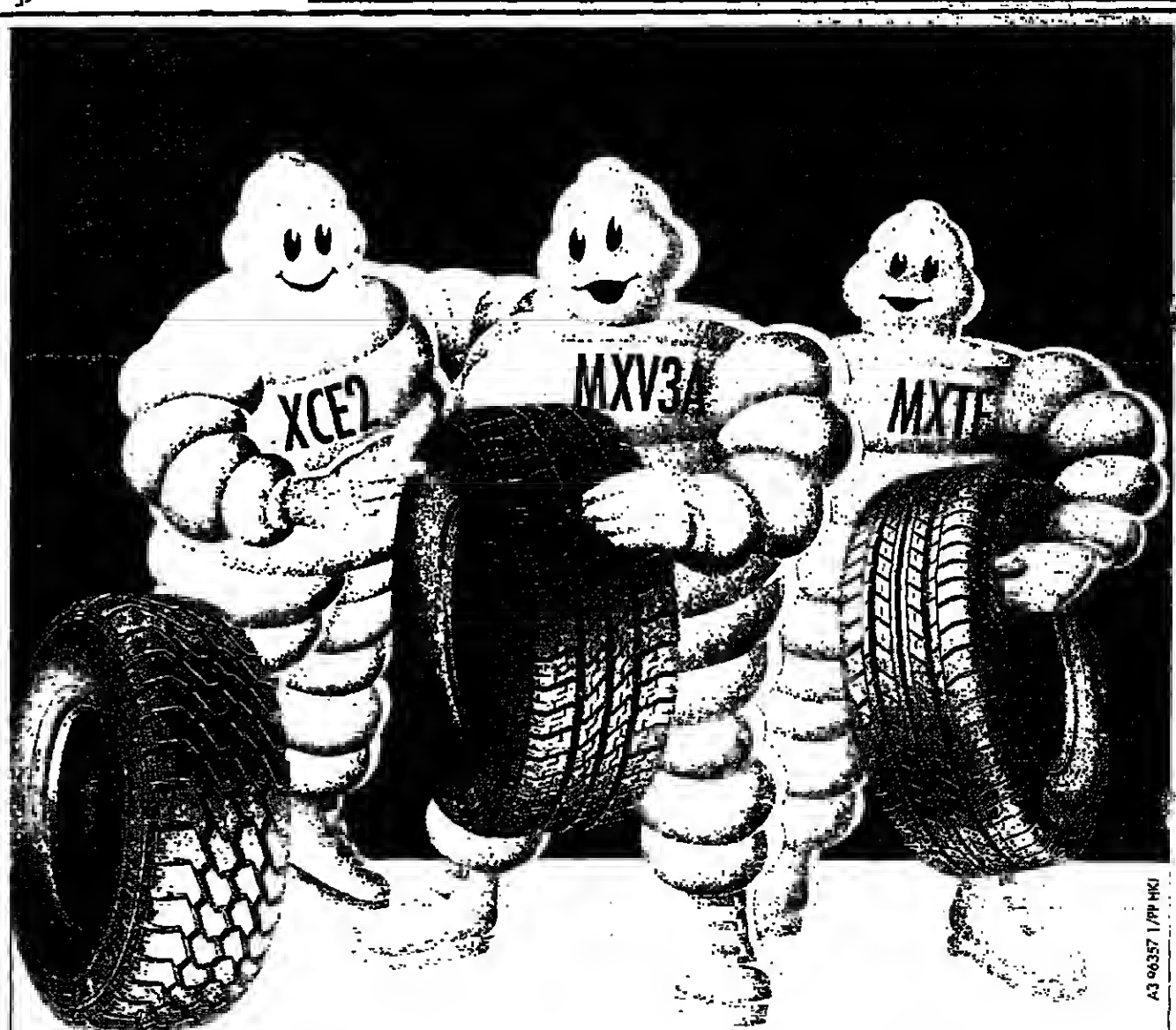
On voit alors un grand nombre de Parisiens, de toutes catégories sociales, venir prêter main forte. C'est un peu une fête avant la fête, une réunion joyeuse des citoyens dans le travail. Le roi lui-même, le 9 juillet, y va de son coup de pioche.

L'estampe met en scène ces « journées de brouettes ». « Tous les bons citoyens ont mis la main à l'œuvre », et l'on distingue sur trois plans, les patriotes terrassiers : des femmes en bonnet phrygien, des enfants, un religieux un peu perdu et insolite moodain portant un parasol. Au dernier plan, pour tirer un tonneau, les patriotes forment une chaîne : l'union nationale, thème de la Fédération, est déjà en marche.

Mais l'union a ses exclus : les aristocrates. La tradition attribue la naissance du célèbre refrain qui ira à ces journées de juillet 1790, tandis que les vers inscrits dans le registre supérieur annoncent, plus crûment, la couleur : « Aristocrates vous voilà donc fous ! Le Champ-de-Mars vous fou la pelle ou cul ! Nous balayerons vos femmes ! Et vous nous balayeront le cul... ».



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C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma
Cycle consacré à l'acteur Lino Ventura. *Espion lève-toi*, d'Yves Boisset (1981); lundi 13 juillet à 20h30 au CCCL.

Exposition
Jusqu'au 29 juillet au CCCL, la photographe Jan Kassay expose ses plus beaux clichés de fleurs.

The Star
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Le Jourdain, on y revient.
Tous les jeudis dans le Star 645 380

En commémoration de la fête nationale française

Le directeur général et le personnel de l'Al Kazar Hotel d'Aqaba présentent leurs vœux les plus chers au peuple de France et à ses dirigeants.

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14 DECEMBRE 1853: un décret impérial légalise la création de la Compagnie Générale des Eaux qui obtient son premier contrat de gestion de service public de distribution d'eau à Lyon.

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Les hommes de la Révolution SAINT-JUST

Sa jeunesse - il est le plus jeune député de la Convention - sa beauté, son tempérament exalté et intrinsèque, et sa courte carrière politique en font un personnage de légende. Vouant une admiration sans bornes à Robespierre, il suit un parcours parallèle. Il entre au comité de salut public puis rempli avec succès plusieurs missions aux armées. Elu président de la Convention en février 1794, il renforce la terreur, élabore les décrets de ventôse et aide Robespierre dans la lutte contre les factions. Il monte à l'échafaud le 28 juillet 1794 en compagnie de ce dernier.

Ses institutions républicaines furent publiées après sa mort : il y propose une république vertueuse, sur le modèle spartiate.



Expérience

Etudiant à Mafraq

Hugo était sans doute le premier Français venu étudier à l'université islamique d'Al-Albeyt près de Mafraq. Quatre mois d'une vie de potache un peu particulière.

Difficile de

s'occuper le soir à l'université Al-Albeyt de Mafraq. Les soirées d'Hugo ont souvent été longues. Cours d'arabe le matin, révisions l'après-midi, dîner à 18h30 et après ? Après, il n'y a pas grand chose à faire. Dans cette université islamique internationale, les fêtes nocturnes ne sont pas autorisées. Pas d'alcool, pas de cigarettes et les relations entre filles et garçons sont très surveillées.

Hugo avoue que « la vie universitaire n'est pas drôle, là-bas ».

Construite dans un ancien camp militaire, en plein désert, à 80 kilomètres au nord-est d'Amman, l'université Al-Albeyt est une sorte d'énorme campus, entouré de barbelés qui n'inspirent pas vraiment l'enthousiasme. Hugo, dès qu'il peut, essaye de passer ses week-ends dans la capitale, quand il ne retrouve à Abdlah, j'ai tout de suite une impression de vie et d'animation. Alors pourquoi être allé s'enterrer à Mafraq ? Pour bien apprendre l'arabe tout simplement. Après un premier trimestre d'enseignements décevants à l'université de Jordanie, Hugo a décidé de continuer l'année dans le désert. A Al-Albeyt, si on ne s'amuse pas trop, en revanche, on y travaille dur. En quelques temps, le jeune homme fait des progrès phénoménaux et avoue avoir des difficultés à saisir le dialecte des bedouins du

désert. « Ici, quand tu parles arabe, les gens sont très contents », apprécie-t-il, « parfois, les chauffeurs de taxis ne me faisaient même pas payer parce que je parlais leur langue ». Sur le campus aussi bien entendu, les discussions s'engagent en arabe (le classique d'ailleurs). Hugo a surtout sympathisé avec les autres étudiants étrangers du campus. Comme lui, ils sont venus apprendre l'arabe, la langue du

Coran. Ils viennent d'Ukraine ou de Guinée. Tous ou presque sont musulmans. Lui, le Français aux cheveux blonds, se dit chrétien. Alors les débats religieux sont nombreux. Hugo, malgré un passage à l'école des pères polonais, n'est pas un défenseur acharné de sa religion. Il préfère écouter et n'hésite pas à questionner ses camarades : « Je les ai souvent interrogés sur les contraintes imposées par l'Islam ». On lui répond sans s'offusquer mais toujours avec une pointe de prosélytisme. Malgré les apparences et sa barbe de « cheik », Hugo ne s'est pas converti à l'Islam après quatre mois passés à Mafraq. Aujourd'hui il est retourné en France mais se promet de revenir un jour dans le Moyen-Orient pour travailler dans le domaine de l'eau « il y a tant à faire ici » et surtout ne pas perdre son arabe.



Le Jourdain

Education

Le français au tawjihi 1999

Plus de 25.000 élèves apprennent le français dans les écoles privées et peut-être 4.500 à la rentrée prochaine dans les écoles publiques. Désormais, le français sera proposé aux jeunes Jordaniens des 11 districts dans l'ensemble des établissements publics du pays. Dès lors, quand 20 familles demandent l'introduction du français, une classe est ouverte. Selon les estimations actuelles du ministère de l'éducation, 80 classes nouvelles doivent s'ouvrir dès l'année prochaine. Jamais la langue de Molière n'avait connue un tel engouement en Jordanie. Le ministre de l'éducation et de l'enseignement Dr Munther Al-Masri prévoit même d'en faire une des matières du tawjihi à la rentrée 1999, une matière optionnelle pour la section littéraire voire obligatoire pour la filière hôtelière.

Suite à la visite du président Jacques Chirac en Jordanie l'année dernière, une commission mixte s'est réunie début 97 pour favoriser la coopération entre les deux pays dans les domaines linguistique et éducatif et notamment renforcer l'enseignement du français dans les écoles, rappelle Grégory Delattre, attaché linguistique adjoint et professeur au Centre culturel français. Dans les universités de Yarmouk et de Jordanie, l'enseignement du français connaît également des évolutions avec la mise en place de cours spécialisés notamment dans le tourisme. « Il s'agit d'offrir aux étudiants des débouchés professionnels après leurs études », poursuit Grégory Delattre. Plus question de cantonner le français dans une langue de la culture ou de l'amour. Par ailleurs, dès octobre s'ouvrira un institut de formation hôtelière et touristique où le français sera une des langues officielles avec l'arabe et l'anglais.

Nahed Al-Khalouf



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«Pas de paix possible avec la colonisation»

Pour Bernard Bajolet, ambassadeur de France en Jordanie, la direction choisie par Israël ne peut mener à une reprise du dialogue.

Le Jourdain: Comment jugez-vous l'attitude de Netanyahu vis-à-vis du processus de paix depuis un an ?

Bernard Bajolet: Nous sommes très déçus. Nous espérons que le dernier mot n'a pas été dit. Actuellement la situation est bloquée et on peut très sincèrement se demander si le gouvernement israélien veut toujours la paix.

Le Jourdain: Est-il possible de sortir de cette crise ?

Bernard Bajolet: Oui, à condition de le vouloir. Or nous avons l'impression que cette volonté n'existe pas. Avant de mettre en œuvre ce qui a été décidé, notamment sur Hébron, et d'engager les discussions sur le statut final, il faut reprendre le dialogue. Les compromis sont toujours possibles pour permettre aux deux parties de se remettre à la table des négociations. L'Union Européenne a fait des propositions en ce sens : premièrement, la suspension de la colonisation et deuxièmement, la coopération pleine et entière de l'Autorité palestinienne en matière de sécurité. Nous ne mettons pas les deux choses en rapport. Ce sont simplement deux points qui nous paraissent importants et qui permettraient une reprise des négociations.

De toute façon, on ne peut pas prétendre vouloir la paix et en même temps poursuivre la colonisation. Cela veut dire qu'Israël ne reconnaît pas aux Palestiniens le droit de créer une entité viable qui, pour nous Français, doit prendre la forme d'un Etat. Nous comprenons donc très bien que les Palestiniens refusent de reprendre les négociations si les opérations de colonisation se poursuivent. Je le répète, il n'y a pas de paix possible avec la poursuite de la colonisation.

Le Jourdain: Le gouvernement israélien ne désire donc pas faire aboutir le processus de paix commencé à Madrid ?

Bernard Bajolet: De deux choses l'une : soit Israël estime qu'il doit faire la paix et que son avenir ne sera assuré dans la région que lorsqu'il aura des relations normales avec chacun de ses voisins. C'est la voie qui avait été suivie jusqu'à présent et nous espérons qu'elle aurait été poursuivie par M. Netanyahu. Soit Israël n'a pas besoin de la paix et peut continuer à vivre en étant entouré de pays plus ou moins hostiles. Nous avons l'impression que c'est la deuxième formule qui a été choisie et à mon avis, elle est très trompeuse. Cela étant, je suis persuadé que la grande ma-

jorité du peuple israélien soutient la paix.

Le Jourdain: Pensez-vous que les Palestiniens montrent aussi de la mauvaise volonté ?

Bernard Bajolet: J'ai tendance à penser que les Palestiniens aussi souhaitent faire la paix car pour eux, c'est leur vie de tous les jours qui est en jeu. Mais ils sont en position de faiblesse. Cela dit, ils ont également leur part de responsabilité. Il est important qu'ils ne donnent aucun prétexte au gouvernement israélien pour ne pas reprendre la voie de la paix. Il est essentiel que l'Autorité palestinienne joue pleinement le jeu de la coopération en matière de sécurité. Nous estimons d'autre part que les Palestiniens doivent faire beaucoup d'efforts pour assurer une gestion plus rigoureuse et pour garder la confiance des principaux pays donateurs. Enfin, il y a beaucoup à faire pour la démocratie : le conseil législatif palestinien doit jouer pleinement son rôle de contre-pouvoir et il faut bien dire que jusqu'à présent cela n'a pas été le cas.

Le Jourdain: L'Europe doit-elle avoir un rôle plus actif dans le processus de paix ?

Bernard Bajolet: L'Europe a plus que les Etats-Unis ou la Russie ou même l'Egypte, en dépit de leurs efforts, aucun de ces partenaires ne pourra faire la paix à la place des parties concernées. En revanche, nous pouvons contribuer à réduire les tensions, à trouver les points d'accord, à catalyser les bonnes volontés.

Le Jourdain: En France, le gouvernement du nouveau premier ministre Lionel Jospin va-t-il poursuivre la même politique au Proche-Orient ?

Bernard Bajolet: Oui, car d'une façon générale, il y a eu une très grande continuité de la politique française à l'égard du Proche-Orient depuis le général De Gaulle. Ce n'est pas un affaire de partis.

J'ai moi-même assisté aux entretiens à Paris que le roi Hussein a eus avec Jacques Chirac et Lionel Jospin. Le roi était la première personnalité étrangère à être reçue en France après la formation du nouveau gouvernement. Le président de la République et le Premier mi-

nistre lui ont tenu le même langage.

Nous ne sommes pas plus du côté des Palestiniens que du côté des Israéliens contrairement à ce que ces derniers pensent parfois. Nous sommes pour la paix au Proche-Orient. Nous souhaitons que l'Etat d'Israël soit un Etat prospère, accepté dans sa région. Mais nous disons ce que nous pensons être le droit et la justice et cela implique la reconnaissance du peuple palestinien et de leur droit à former un Etat viable. Nous essayons de persuader les Israéliens que la création d'un Etat palestinien serait, pour eux, la meilleure façon de garantir leur sécurité parce qu'on peut discuter avec un Etat et parce que la satisfaction des aspirations palestiniennes assurerait une relation pacifique entre les deux peuples. C'est au contraire les frustrations, le déni de droit, qui provoquent les réactions de violence.

Le Jourdain: La France vient d'annoncer qu'en cas de retrait des troupes israéliennes du Sud-Liban, elle enverrait

une force de maintien de la paix. Que signifie cette prise de position et quels pourraient en être les risques terroristes ?

Bernard Bajolet: Nous souhaitons qu'Israël quitte les territoires du Liban. Si le Liban le demande, nous serons prêts à assurer des garanties de sécurité. Mais il est clair que ces mesures doivent faire l'objet d'un accord de l'ensemble des parties concernées.

Le Jourdain: La situation politique régionale n'est pas favorable aux investissements étrangers. Y a-t-il des conditions propres à la Jordanie qui entravent également ces investissements ?

Bernard Bajolet: Le processus de décision est compliqué et les choses vont beaucoup plus lentement que je ne l'espérais moi-même. Mais j'ai peut-être cette impression en raison de ma nature impatient. Il faut énormément de ténacité à une entreprise française pour quelle maintienne son intérêt. Il y en a quelques-unes qui se sont découragées, mais un plus grand nombre reste attiré par les avantages que présente la Jordanie. Ainsi la Lyonnaise des eaux, la Générale des Eaux, la CAT (transports internationaux) etc., se sont installées à Amman ré-

comment. Et dans le domaine de l'eau justement, le gouvernement jordanien va lancer un appel d'offres pour la privatisation de la gestion du réseau du Grand Amman.

Il y a de la part du gouvernement local une volonté d'aller dans le sens des privatisations. C'est en fait une question de rythme et cela dépend aussi du contexte politique général.

Propos recueillis par Ali Kassey et Yanaïck Laine



SUEZ LYONNAISE DES EAUX

PRESS RELEASE
SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE SUEZ LYONNAISE DES EAUX
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The shareholders of Compagnie de Suez and Lyonnaise des Eaux (LDE) have overwhelmingly approved the proposed merger of the two companies at their annual general meetings held respectively on June 11 (Suez) and June 19 (LDE). The approval results in the creation of a new company, effective from 1 January 1997, called Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux. Revenues will be US\$ 40.1 billion (FF 210 billion). Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux has operations in nearly 120 countries with 180,000 employees. The shareholders have also agreed to a new style of corporate ma-

agement - the creation of a Management Board and a Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board's role is to guide the strategy of the new company and to control the way in which the strategy is carried out.

Jérôme Monod (previously Chairman of Lyonnaise des Eaux) was elected Chairman of the Supervisory Board and Gérard Mesrallet, the former President of Compagnie de Suez, was elected as Chairman of the Management Board and Chief Executive Officer. The Management Board is the decision-making and management vehi-

cle of the group. Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux's ambition is to become a world leader in the provision of water, infrastructure services. The company will direct most of its financial resources towards the development of its four core businesses - energy, water, waste management and communications.

Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux's coordinates in Jordan are: Regional Office for MENA P.O. Box 941619 Amman 11194 tel: 602 161/9 fax: 602 172 Director for Regional Development: J. Owayshek

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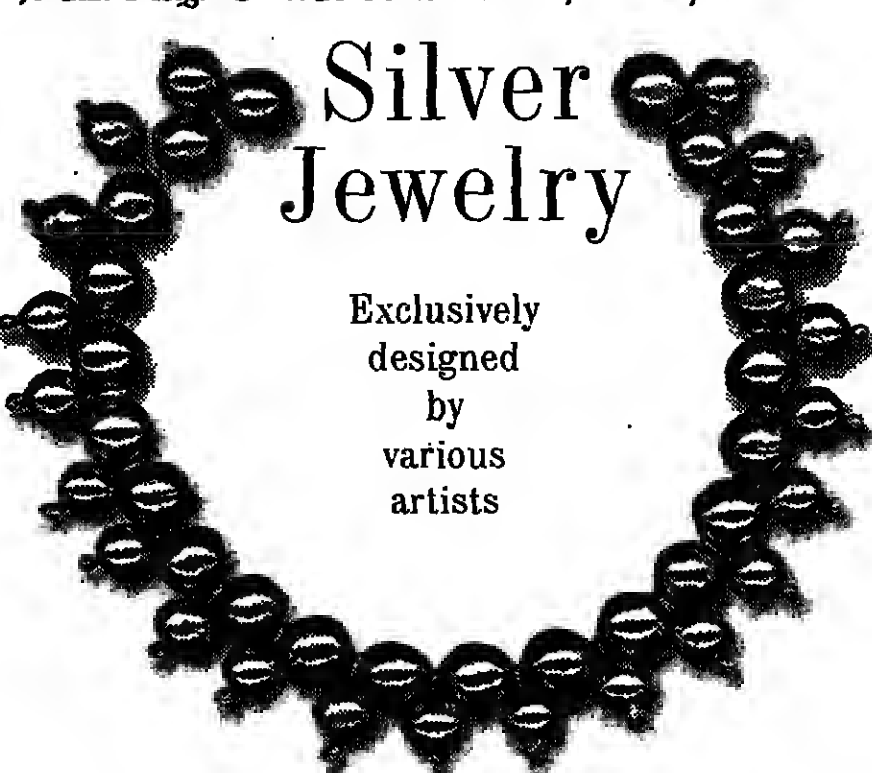
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340-French Pro
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352-Prison
354-Tim Trav
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358-Magazine
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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 12-18 July

Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149): *Liar Liar*
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149): *Dracula Dead & Loving it*
- Plaza (Tel: 699238): *Gone With The Wind*
- Jerry Maguire
- Concord I (Tel: 677420): *Devil's Own*
- Concord II (Tel: 677420): *Spacejam*

Highlight of the week at the Pleasure Dome

● **Showdown in Little Tokyo:** "Smart, fast-moving martial arts action-adventure." For 400 years, Japan has been home to a secret society of killers dedicated to their own supremacy in the world of crime. Ruled by an ancient, arcane code of honor, the deadly Yakuza have been among the most feared members of Japanese society. Even today, they are immediately recognizable by the stunningly ornate full-body tattoos that cover their bodies, telling the terrifying story of their stature and career in an underworld order that knows no mercy. Now the Yakuza are coming to L.A. But America, they're going to meet their match. Two cops are on their trail. One's an American raised in Japan. He's got the mind and spirit of a samurai, and the body of a human fighting machine. The other is a Japanese-American raised in the San Fernando Valley. He's into malls, pizza and MTV. But he can disarm five gunmen with his bare feet. One's a warrior. One's a wise-ass. But together they've got what it takes to remove same tattoos from Little Tokyo.



ENGLISH PROGRAMS

- SATURDAY**
- 3:30—Holy Koran
 - 3:35—French Programs
 - 4:00—Neighbors
 - 6:10—French Programs
 - 7:30—News Headlines
 - 7:35—Hangin' with Mr. Cooper
 - 8:00—Magazine Zero One
 - 8:30—Prison
 - 9:10—Time Trax
 - 10:00—News at Ten
 - 10:30—Macgyver
 - 11:15—Feature Film

- SUNDAY**
- 3:30—Holy Koran
 - 3:35—French Programs
 - 4:05—America's Home Video
 - 4:30—Energy Express
 - 5:15—American Chart Show
 - 6:00—French Programs
 - 7:00—News in French
 - 7:30—News Headlines
 - 7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
 - 8:00—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
 - 8:30—National Geographic
 - 9:10—Renegade
 - 10:00—News at Ten
 - 10:30—One West Waikiki
 - 11:15—Sisters

- MONDAY**
- 3:30—Holy Koran
 - 3:40—Spirou
 - 4:05—Neighbors
 - 4:30—Deep Water Haven
 - 5:00—Ocean Girl
 - 5:15—Nature By Profession
 - 6:10—French Programs
 - 7:00—News in French
 - 7:30—News Headlines
 - 7:35—Murphy Brown
 - 8:00—The Giant Nile
 - 8:30—Babylon 5
 - 9:10—Highlander



Babylon 5, Monday at 8:30 pm

- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Law and Order
- 11:15—Homicide

- TUESDAY**
- 3:30—Holy Koran
 - 3:35—French Programs
 - 4:00—Super Sport Follies
 - 4:30—Dog House
 - 5:00—Square on TV
 - 5:10—The Album Show
 - 6:10—French Programs
 - 7:00—News in French
 - 7:30—News Headlines
 - 7:35—Coach
 - 8:00—Tilt
 - 8:30—Encounter
 - 9:10—Nature of Things
 - 10:00—News at Ten

- 10:30—West Beach
- 11:15—Drug Wars

- WEDNESDAY**
- 3:30—Holy Koran
 - 3:35—French Programs
 - 4:05—Captain Planet
 - 4:30—Spell Binder
 - 5:30—Forests of The World
 - 6:00—French Programs
 - 7:00—News in French
 - 7:30—News Headlines
 - 7:35—Step by Step
 - 8:10—Soldier's Diary
 - 8:30—Challenges (Local talk show)
 - 9:10—Spencer for Hire
 - 10:00—News at Ten
 - 10:25—Land's End

- 11:00—American Gothic

- THURSDAY**
- 3:30—Holy Koran
 - 3:35—French Programs
 - 4:05—Hey Dad
 - 4:30—He Shoots He Scores
 - 5:15—Varieties
 - 6:10—French Programs
 - 7:00—News in French
 - 7:30—News Headlines
 - 7:35—Parenthood
 - 8:00—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
 - 8:30—Submarines (Doc.)
 - 9:10—Kung Fu
 - 10:00—News at Ten
 - 10:30—Feature Film
 - 11:00—Taratata

- FRIDAY**
- 2:00—Holy Koran
 - 2:05—Lion the Lion (Cartoon)
 - 2:30—Cartoons
 - 3:00—French Programs
 - 4:00—Neighbors
 - 4:30—NBA
 - 5:10—French Film
 - 7:00—News in French
 - 7:30—News Headlines
 - 7:35—Family Matters
 - 8:00—The Health Show
 - 8:30—Hawkeye (Drama)
 - 9:10—500 Nations
 - 10:00—News at Ten
 - 10:30—Mini Series
 - 12:00—Feature Film

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

- SAMEDI**
- 3:30—Dessins animés
 - Arène Lupin
 - 6:00—Série policière
 - Sœurs froides
 - 7:00—Le Journal
 - 7:15—Magazine
 - L'œuf de Colomb

- DIMANCHE**
- 3:30—Dessins animés
 - Arène Lupin
 - 6:00—Magazine
 - Faut pas rêver
 - 7:00—Le Journal
 - 7:15—Magazine
 - Ziva

- LUNDI**
- 3:30—Dessins animés
 - Arène Lupin
 - 6:00—Documentaire
 - Pique
 - 7:00—Le Journal
 - 7:15—Magazine scientifique
 - Cine sur cine

- MARDI**
- 3:30—Dessins animés
 - Arène Lupin
 - 6:00—Série
 - Opération open
 - 7:00—Le Journal
 - 7:15—Magazine
 - Extra large

- MERCREDI**
- 3:40—Dessins animés
 - Arène Lupin
 - 6:00—Magazine
 - Ushuaia
 - 7:00—Le Journal
 - 7:15—Magazine
 - Ziva

- JEUDI**
- 5:30—Divertissement
 - Le monde est à vous
 - 7:00—Le Journal
 - 7:15—Documentaire
 - Les jardins reconquis
 - 12:00—Taratata
 - Invité: Maurane

- VENREDI**
- 3:15—Divertissement
 - L'école des fans
 - 5:30—Film
 - Dans les terres gelées
 - 7:00—Le Journal
 - 7:30—Magazine

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Video Releases

We've assembled a collection of powerful movies for you this week:

- **With Honors:** What will happen to Monty when a severe winter storm causes his computer drive to crash and takes with it his senior honors thesis. What begins as a trading-off for necessities becomes a discovery that life's most important lessons are not necessarily learned by the book.
- **Angel Street:** Two police detectives... one a well-educated black, the other a street-smart white. A story of uneasy partnership between two women who work to suppress their hostilities toward each other as well as their taunting peers.
- **Boyfriend From Hell:** He charmed the senioritis of east L.A. Now he's after the shellas down under. 90 mins of laughing with Cheech Marin and Emma Samms.
- **Fair Game:** Yesterday Kate (Cindy Crawford) was a dedicated Miami family attorney. Today she's a moving target of a ruthless group of international embezzlers when she repossesses a valuable ship belonging to one of them as part of a divorce settlement. Sexy. Exciting. And Fun.

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BUSINESSMAN'S GUIDE

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THE STAR'S

WORK

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Computer & IT companies

Welcome to the Star's Workstation, the absolute source for what's hot and what's not in Jordan's IT market. Fax us on 638298 or email us at star@net.com.jo with your news and views.

Wanted: Lively content for Arab Web sites

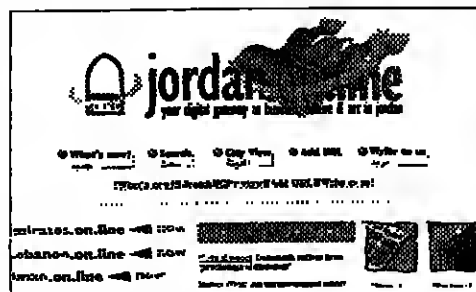
Jabra Ghneim
Special to The Star

NEW CONCEPTS in content creation have emerged over the past few years, as the Internet came into wide use. The Internet is mainly about content, and we Arabs need to utilize this content revolution to our benefit. Presently there is serious lack of lively content to be enjoyed by the Arab "surfer" or anyone else interested in Arab or Arabic information on the Web.

What is content?
If you read The Star on the Internet, then you are reading an HTML copy of this article. If it has any URLs, you can cross-reference and link to other reflected articles. Those of us addicted to knowledge live by every word that is said or written by good creators everywhere (writers, editors, graphic designers, etc.). Computers and communication technologies made content development, and distribution much faster and accessible to almost everybody.

This is a big business in Europe and the United States. Any generator of media in every kind and form is a "content developer". The advent of the net has made content development a bigger business. The

net also changed the way people read and receive information. Microsoft and Wired in the United States are leaders in the field. They spend millions of dollars every year to deliver innovative, useful and creative content that has the power to lure and attract users to their sites. Slate magazine on the



Microsoft site (www.msn.com) is an excellent example of lively content.

Arab Content on the Net
I believe that traditional content providers in the Arab World have reached a stage where they figured out publishing mechanisms pretty well. Still, restrictions on press freedom are preventing them from reaching their ultimate potential. It would be a waste not to utilize the arising advantages of electronic publishing. There is more to the Internet can offer more than fancy graphics and

flashy JavaScripts. It is about lively content that responds to the beat and tone of the net.

When I visit Arab sites on the net that I see is a flat emulation of Western style Web publishing. No user wants to go to an Arab site and waste precious time to download a GIF image of an outdated news article, or a fancy Arabesque image.

We should feel the thoughts and needs of the Arab individual, by referring to comprehensive sites that project these feelings and aspirations. To make this idea clearer, take a look at certain sites that reflect the needs of the American people. These are written in smooth style, in the language of the regular American citizen.

Correspondingly, I think we need to see Web pages of our own, written by the likes of Youssef Geyshan, and even the famous Nabil & Hisham. These are comic writers or actors, but they present our issues in an easily recognizable form that appeals to the masses.

Another interesting notion is to transfer the weekly newspapers that will have to close down, due to the new press law, on to the Internet where the hand of law cannot reach. By doing so, these writers

"This is RJ DAB 1.5 giga hertz!": The technology of digital radio

By Jawad Abbassi

Special to The Star

OUR AGE is, by large, a digital one: our watches and our car displays are digital. We also use our digital telephone exchanges to connect to our digital ISPs in order to send our digital email.

Nevertheless, many "analogue" technologies—continuous variations in voltage that correspond to the signals transmitted—are still alive and kicking. Our phone calls from the phone set to the digital exchange are still, for the most part, analogue.

Furthermore, we still use the digital displays of our radios to tune into FM and AM radio stations and receive their analogue signals.

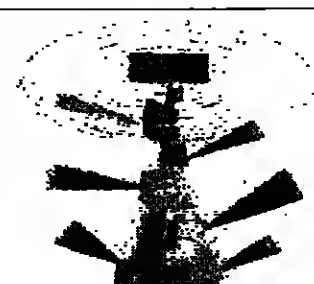
The newer digital technologies, with their superior quality and reliability, will always squeeze the analogue world harder and harder, and the digital victory seems to be inevitable. In the radio transmission technology front, Digital Radio is reaching a mature stage, leading many to believe it will soon replace traditional analogue AM and FM broadcasting which has been in use ever since the Italian, Marconi, discovered it in the nineteenth century. One of the analogue radio transmission shortcomings is its susceptibility to interference and "multipath" echoes caused by the reflection of signals off buildings and other topographic features. Digital radio, on the other hand, is virtually immune to all and any interference which

will become closer to the heart beat of the "net", with content that is more substantial than any other Arab site.

Of course, here we have to bear in mind that Internet use has to spread widely enough to capture a sizable portion of the audience you would typically be able to reach with printed press material.

In any case, the difference in audience locally can be made up for in international reach, serving Arabs worldwide. All of these are noble ideas. But to

results in much clearer reception. Digital Radio transmits and receives sound that has been processed by a technique similar to CD players: It processes it as a stream of On and



Off signals (digits) rather than a continuous variation of voltage. Hence, Digital Radio results in much superior sound quality over analogue radio just as the CDs offered superior sound quality over that of LPs. The system by which digital sound would be broadcast was adopted by the International Telecommunications Union's Radio communications study group (ITU-R) and was called the DAB system (Digital Audio Broadcasting).

In February 1992, the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC), which negotiates frequency allocations globally, officially designated the L-Band (around 1.5 GHz) as the future worldwide home for digital radio. The DAB technology can be used to transmit Digital Radio using conventional terrestrial broadcasting antenna and satellite based systems. Also, DAB technology

enables transmission of text, data, images and video which makes the future "radio" a multimedia receiver. The receiver will be able to store information so that the consumer can access it at a suitable time. The information is sent encrypted or open along with control signals which tell the receiver how to process the information. Examples of future services are: traffic messages, information about congestion, route selections, travel information, hotel information, free park spaces, petrol stations, navigation and electronic newspapers. Successful Pilot projects of digital Radio have been setup in countries like Sweden, Canada, US and Germany. In addition, companies around the world, like Philips, introduced new-generation receivers that are compatible with DAB. This supply of DAB receivers and the successful pilot projects present an indication that the day is near when digital radio becomes ubiquitous. By then, our local radio station in Amman will digitally send its nice tunes and the station identification will no longer be "this is RJ FM 96.3 megahertz". It will be "this is RJ DAB 1.5 gigahertz, broadcasting from Amman!"

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INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Piracy in Jordan, marches on

AFTER THE many discussions, and raging debates on piracy—illegal copying of software—it seems that little has been done to combat this problem in the Jordanian market.

Last year, the software development community in Jordan waged a massive war against piracy in the press and through official bodies like the Jordan Computer Society and some governmental organizations.

This coincided with Jordan's ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) by which the country had to crack down on copyright violations to conform with international laws on intellectual property rights.

So, let's see what has been achieved so far. Till this day, illegal copying continues in Jordan and piracy lives on as the buyer of a computer game is a young user, probably with no source of income other than his/her allowance. It becomes quite obvious that even buying one game every month represents a financial load! So, instead, these people can buy a copy for as little as JD 10. Also, they can exchange copies of software with their friends.

In spite of the fact that everybody agrees that piracy is immoral, most people involved in it prefer to continue enjoying its "hidden benefits". Economic difficulties in the country make it quite difficult for regular home users to actually purchase original copies of entertainment and basic productivity software. If game software is priced at around \$50 in the USA then, by the time it makes it to Jordan, this same piece is selling for about JD 50. Bearing in mind that the normal buyer of a computer game is a young user, probably with no source of income other than his/her allowance, it becomes quite obvious that even buying one game every month represents a financial load! So, instead, these people can buy a copy for as little as JD 10. Also, they can exchange copies of software with their friends.

Let's move a bit more up-market, to engineering applications. For example, AutoCAD, the engineering design package, sells for under JD 25 in Amman at a pirate shop, although an original copy would cost something like JD 1,000 and above. Imagine! It only costs about 2.5 percent of the actual price. Now that is amazing.

Also, till this day, almost every computer system sold by a distributor in Jordan comes with already installed Microsoft applications, including Windows 95, Microsoft Word, Excel and others. None of these have been paid for by the buyer! Although the size of the software market in Jordan is relatively small, we can safely say that software publishers lose millions of dollars every year to piracy.

If these publishers think that they can crack down on corporate and governmental users, they can't battle the other huge side of the market: small-size and home users. I would say that as much illegal software is used by this group, if not even more. In 1996, 83 percent of software in use was pirated. There is a serious need for a solution, and in the absence of government enforcement of intellectual property rights, intelligent solutions are required.

Once again, we sound the call to software publishers worldwide: Create lower priced packages for sale in the Middle East, especially entertainment and home-use software.

The idea is to produce cut-down versions of software, with less packaging, manuals or decreased components—maybe even decreased features—and providing these software packages for a lower price than the normal, full package.

By establishing awareness programs, coupled with lower pricing and special incentives, buyers will go for original software.

It is very much like the case of music tapes. In Amman, there is a shop that sells original music tapes, produced under license in Saudi Arabia, at prices only 25 percent higher than copies produced by other large "copying" shops. The result has been a fair degree of success. Why can't the same be applied to software? That's a question that needs to be answered by the publishers.

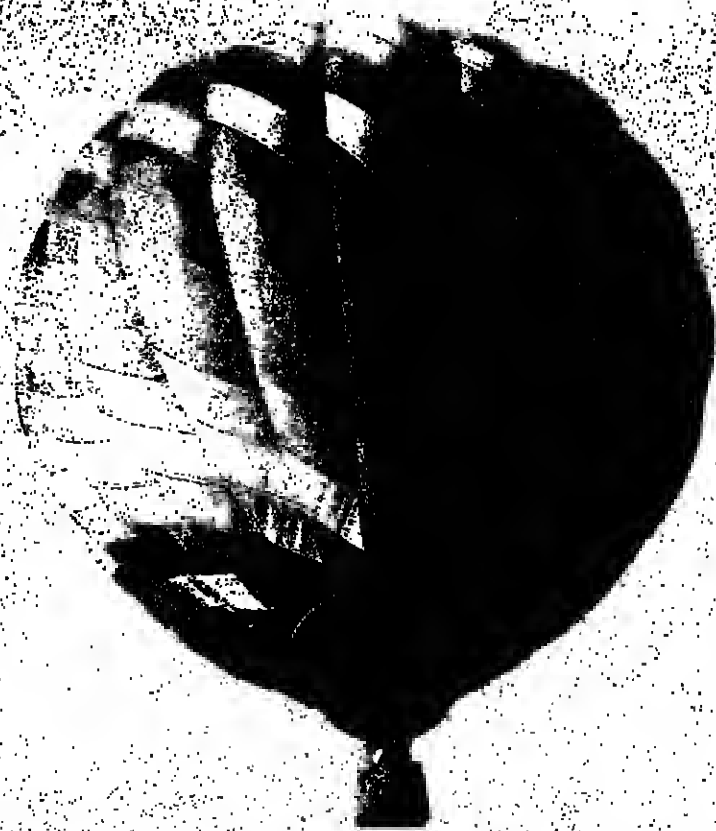
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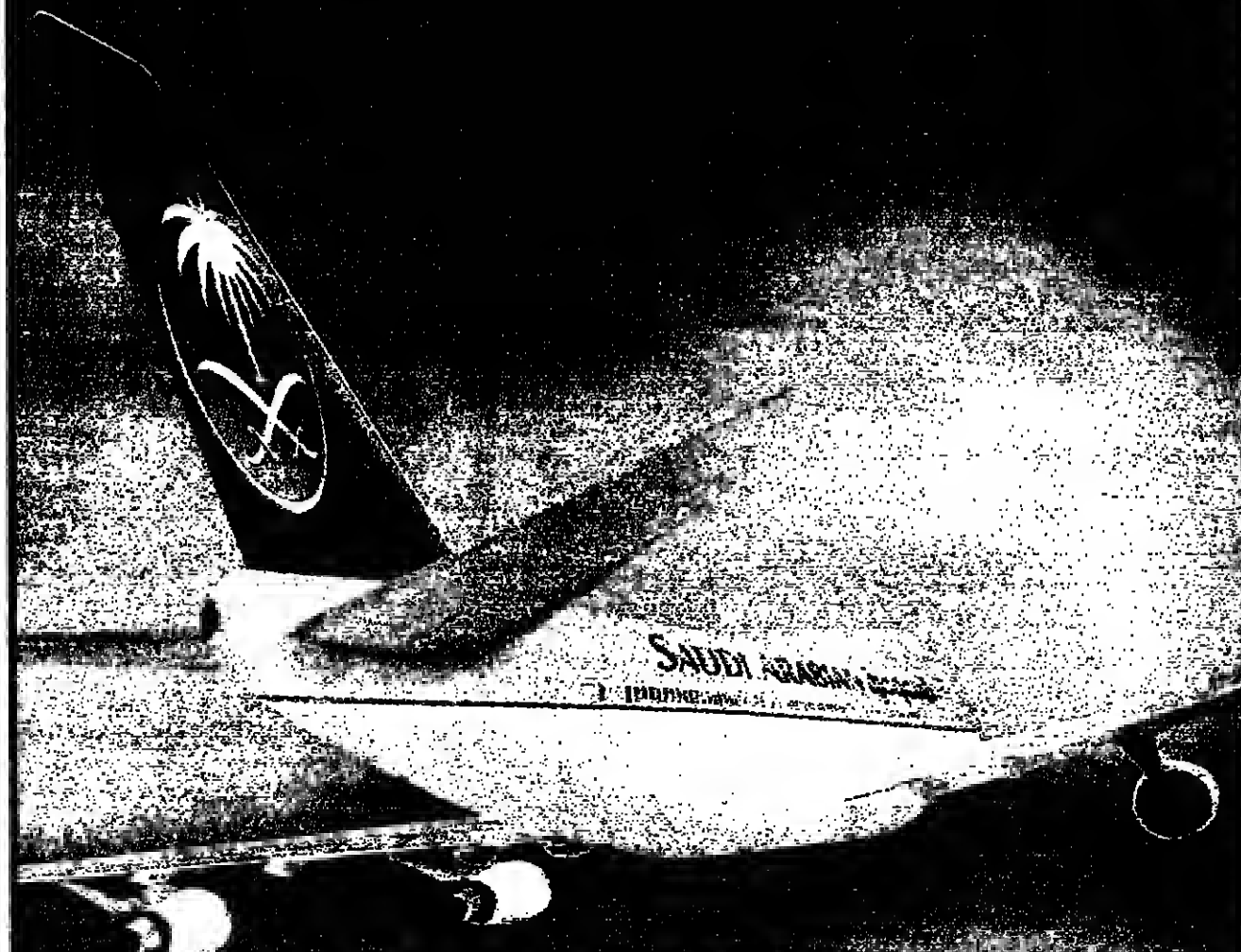


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Madani

Algeria frees leader of Islamic party

By Roula Khalaf

LONDON—Algeria's army-backed government released Tuesday the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leader, Abdelkader Hachani, after a five-year sentence.

Madani, who was stripped of an election victory in 1992 for plunging Algeria into bloody conflict, was jailed for 12 years in one state security. Both the FIS and other Algerian opposition parties have repeatedly called for his release and that of other political prisoners.

Madani's release comes a week after Abdelkader Hachani, the FIS number three, was freed from prison.

Continued on page 2